NJSLYR
NINJA
ニンジャスレイヤー
SLAYER
KILLS!
volume
3
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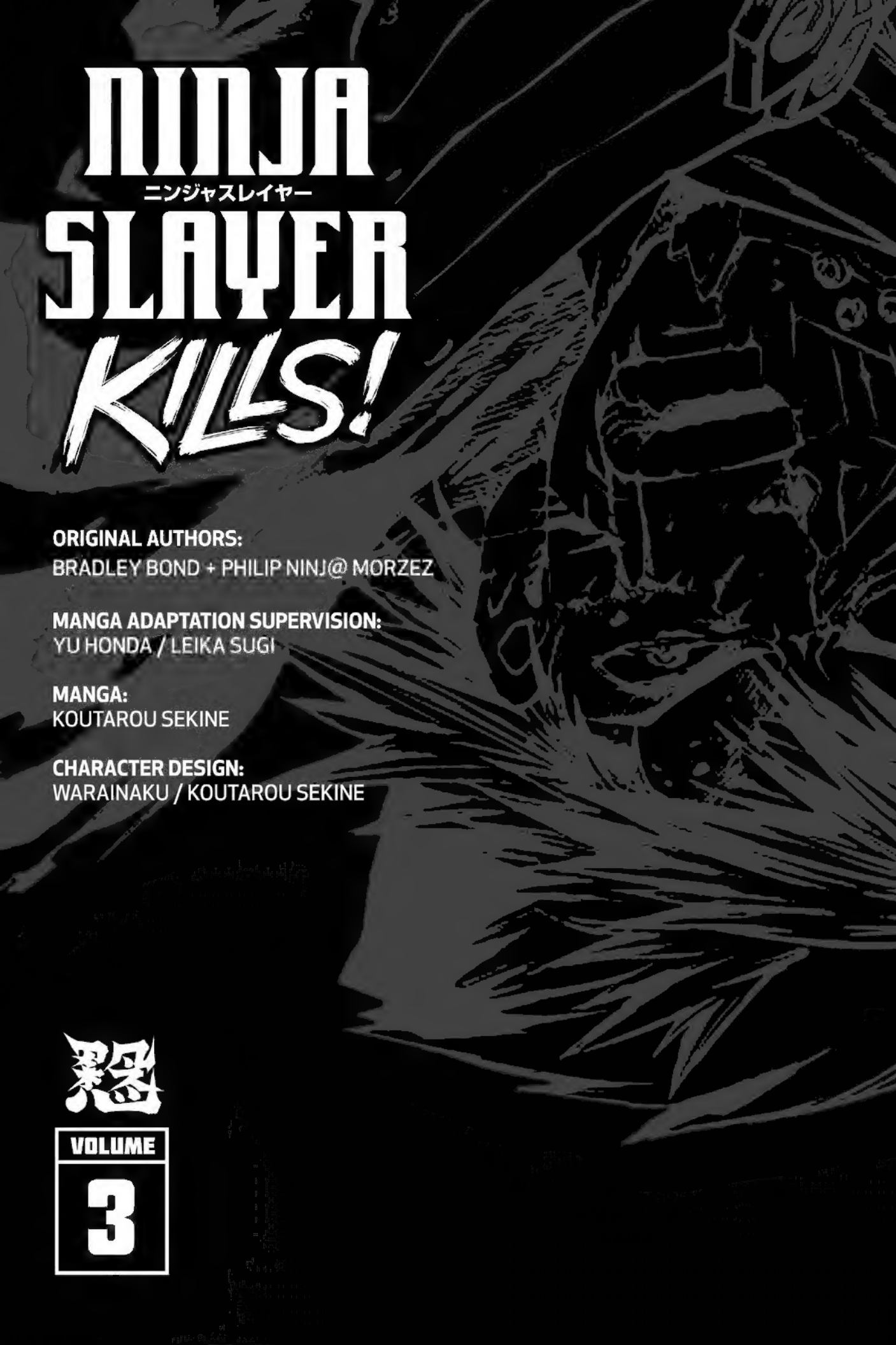
Created by Bradley Bond
& Philip Ninj@ Morzez



NINJA SLAYER KILLS!

ニンジャスレイヤー

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黒忍

VOLUME
3

FOREWORD

Domo.

I am Truncator.

You have done well to make it this far. You have built your wazamae considerably and may soon yet call yourself a true ninja head. But in truth, your journey has only just begun. The path before you is still fraught with peril, so in the event that your karate is overpowered, I have prepared a haiku for you to read upon your demise.

Struck down I shed free
my mortal coil, my tears
crimson curtains fall

SEPPUKU

Similar to but different from *harikiri*, this is very simply an act of suicide that is performed by stabbing and slicing one's stomach open. In the Ninja Slayer universe, *seppuku* is considered to be a more ritualistic and spiritual version of *harikiri*. Some ninjas believe *seppuku* and *death-haiku* were of extreme importance for the preservation of their souls in Kinkaku Temple.

SUMIMASEN

A ninja expression of contrition that is similar to saying "I'm sorry" or "Pardon me."

NAMU HACHIMAN DAIFUTON

A spell used to seal away great evil by invoking the power of Hachiman, the god of archery and war.

SOMATO RECALL

A phenomenon that occurs near death in which one's life passes before their eyes. The experience is said to resemble the experience of watching a revolving lantern show—a vision of shadowy images passing over a screen lit by the flickering flame of a lantern.

SANSHITA

A small-fry or a weak ninja that lacks refinement . This term is often used as an insult for ninja.

KOTODAMA

What is written upon these pages are more than mere words, they have been brought to life on the breath of those who inhabit the world of Ninja Slayer, and as such, hold power that bring them close to the heart and soul of ninja life. Learn these words as if your life depended on it, for they might be your best weapons in this age of wanton violence and depravity.

BIO-LIFE FORMS

Due to Neo-Saitama's serious pollution problem, most animals have been subjected to genetic modification in order to survive. Yoroshisan Pharmaceuticals owns over 90% of the patents for these animals, including bio-pandas, bio-sparrows, bio-water buffalo as well as bio-unagi (freshwater eel) and most of the Chugoku region is overrun with wild bio-life forms. Animals that have had a high degree of genetic modification performed on them have green blood and a small portion of these animals also require bio-extracts and bio-ingots to support their life.

SURIKEN

A demi-shuriken or small, star-shaped weapon—one of many that may be thrown by ninja. One who possesses considerable ninja soul power will have the ability to generate their own suriken. Ninja Slayer can use his own blood to form suriken.

THE STORY THUS FAR

After Fujikido is possessed by the Ninja Soul Naraku and becomes Ninja Slayer, the slayer of ninja, he continues his mission to exact revenge on the Soukai Syndicate with reckless disregard for any innocent souls that stand in his way. Dragon Gendoso, the last real ninja in Japan, notices Naraku's sinister mark, and after a fierce battle with him, successfully seals the evil Ninja Soul within the depths of Fujikido's body. However, before taking his leave, Gendoso discovers a ray of light within the remains of Fujikido's humanity, and tells him to leave his battle behind. Fujikido has lost everything—his wife, his child, and his ninja powers. And the Soukai Syndicate has already sent new assassins for his head!!

DRAGON GENDOSO

As a ninja whose powers have not come from a Ninja Soul possession, he is the last real ninja in Japan. While he manages to stop Fujikido's rampage by sealing Naraku, not all has been resolved...

YUKANO

Gendoso's granddaughter. A beautiful ninja who trains hard at the dojo.

GATEKEEPER

Laomoto Khan's assistant who manages the Soukai Syndicate's ninja as the honorary general of its strategic division.

DARKNINJA

Ninja Slayer's archenemy who swears allegiance to Laomoto Khan. A mysterious ninja who moves independently of the Six Gates.

LAOMOTO KHAN

The CEO of the illegal financial corporation known as Nekosogi Fund and the mastermind behind the Soukai Syndicate that rules Neo-Saitama from the shadows.

DOMINANT

An ambitious young ninja who plots to strengthen his own authority by defeating Ninja Slayer.

FUJIKIDO KENJI

Fujikido is possessed by the wicked Ninja Soul Naraku causing him to be reborn as Ninja Slayer. However, Naraku causes Fujikido to go berserk by taking advantage of his thirst for vengeance. He was stopped by Gendoso, but as a result lost his immense ninja powers.

NINJA SLAYER KILLS!
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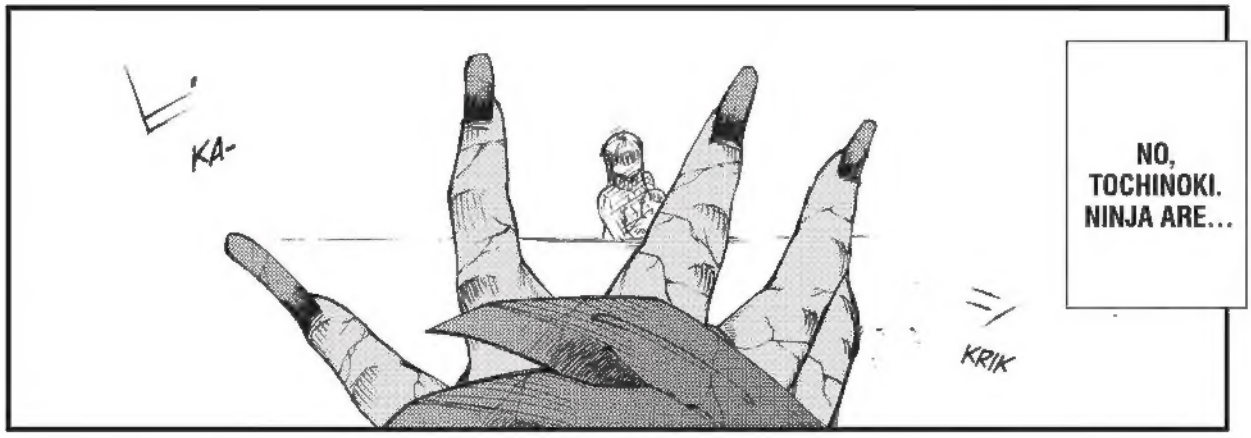
I'M GLAD WE COULD ALL COME HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR...
YEEART! IT'S A NINJA!
IT'S A NINJAAA !!
OH MY!
OH, TOCHINOKI! ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED IN NINJA THAN IN MOMMY AND DADDY?

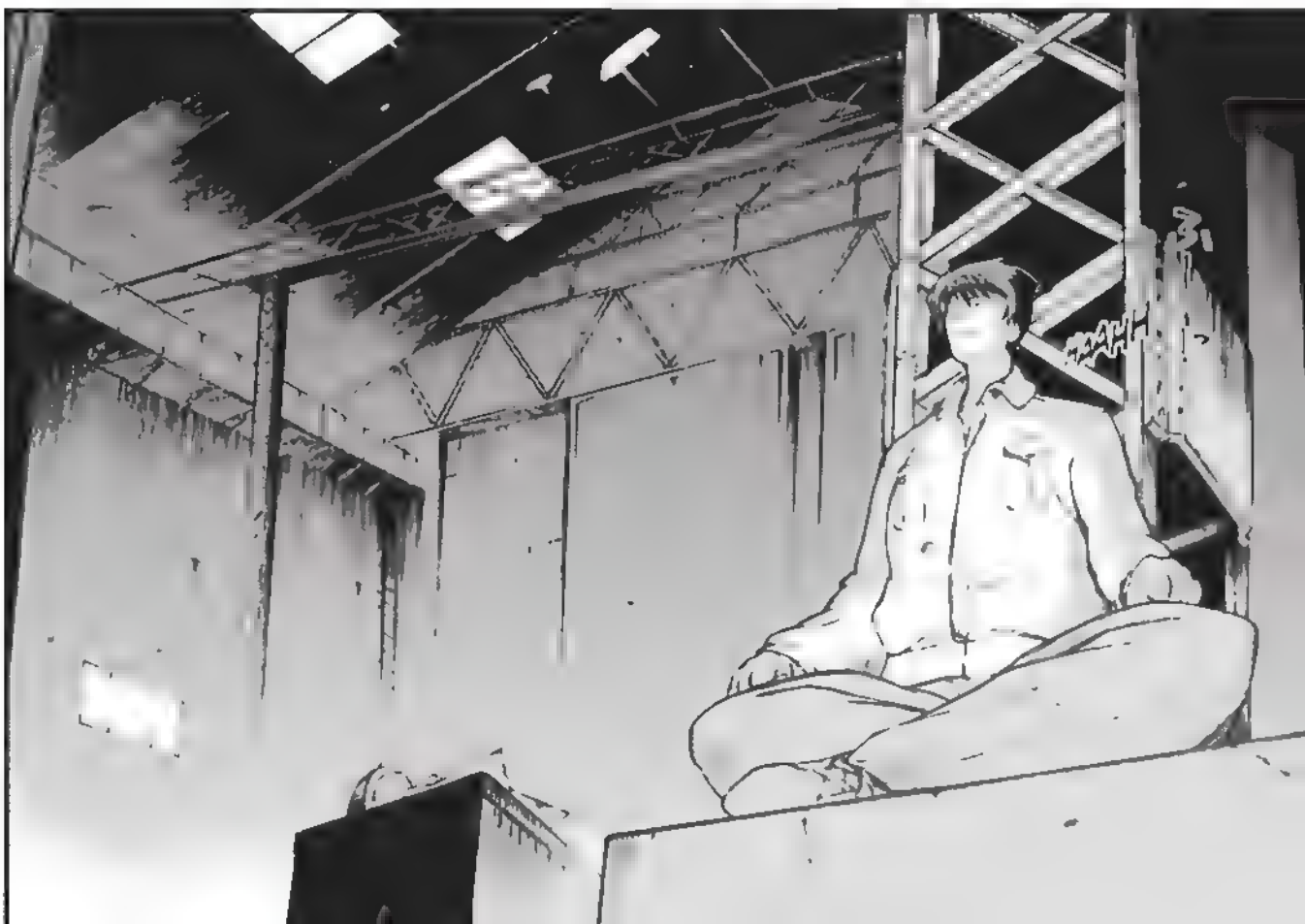
KILLs 012 ✦ BACK IN BLACK PART 3


KA-
KRIK
NO, TOCHINOKI. NINJA ARE...

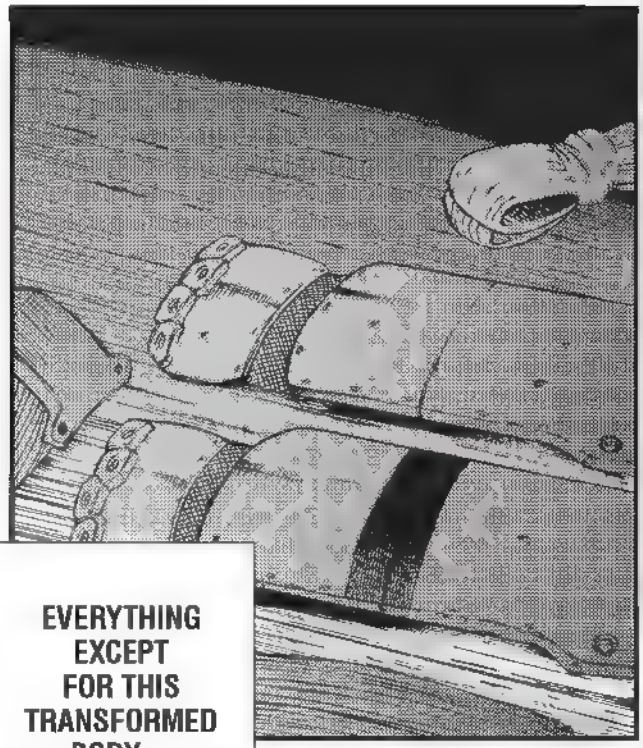
NINJA ARE...

...
tik
tik
tik

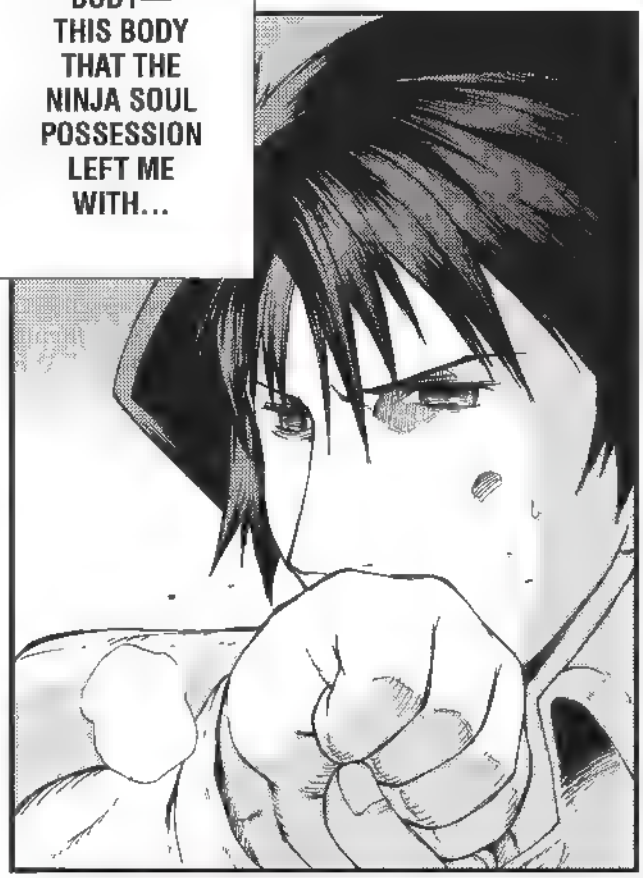
I SLEPT FOR THIRTY WHOLE MINUTES.
HOW CARE-LESS OF ME...
tik
tik
tik

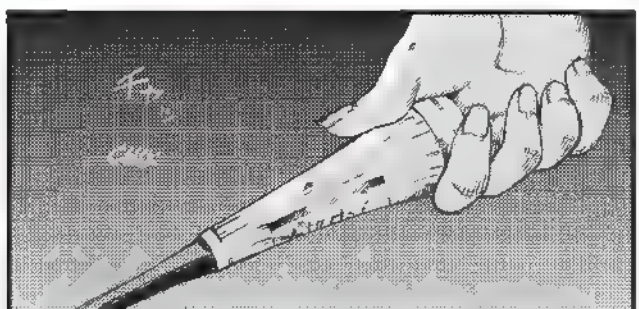

AAAHH

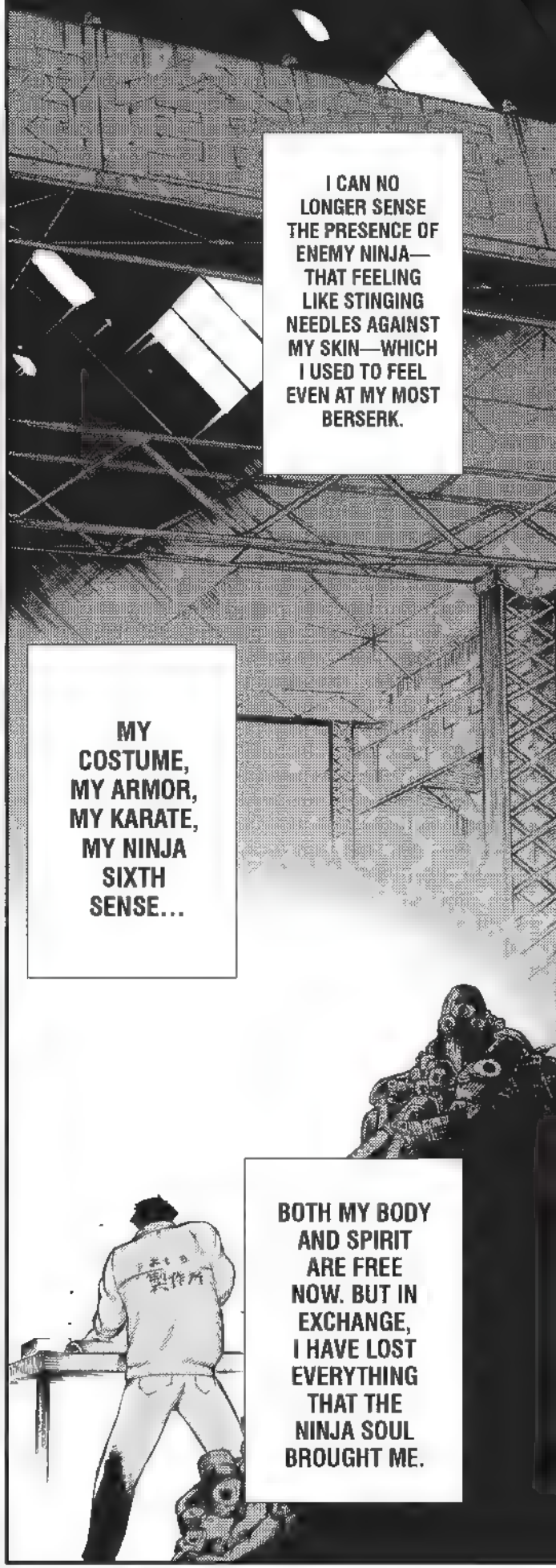
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND



EVERYTHING EXCEPT FOR THIS TRANSFORMED BODY— THIS BODY THAT THE NINJA SOUL POSSESSION LEFT ME WITH...





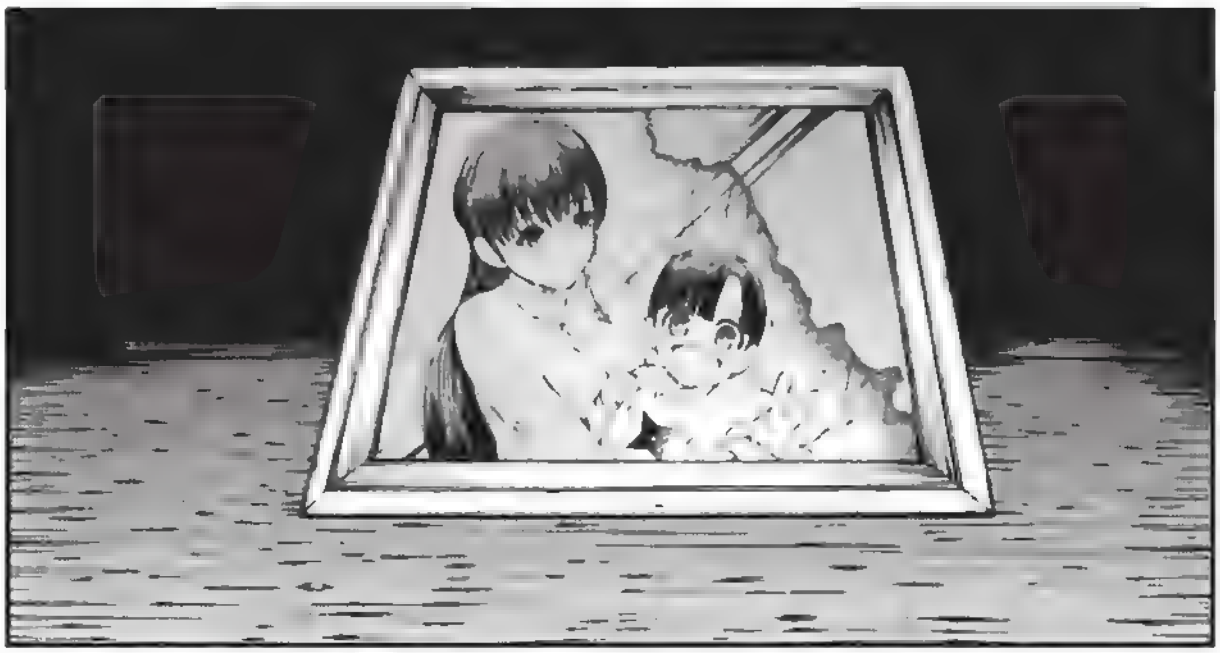


I CAN NO LONGER SENSE THE PRESENCE OF ENEMY NINJA— THAT FEELING LIKE STINGING NEEDLES AGAINST MY SKIN—WHICH I USED TO FEEL EVEN AT MY MOST BERSERK.

MY COSTUME, MY ARMOR, MY KARATE, MY NINJA SIXTH SENSE...

BOTH MY BODY AND SPIRIT ARE FREE NOW. BUT IN EXCHANGE, I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING THAT THE NINJA SOUL BROUGHT ME.

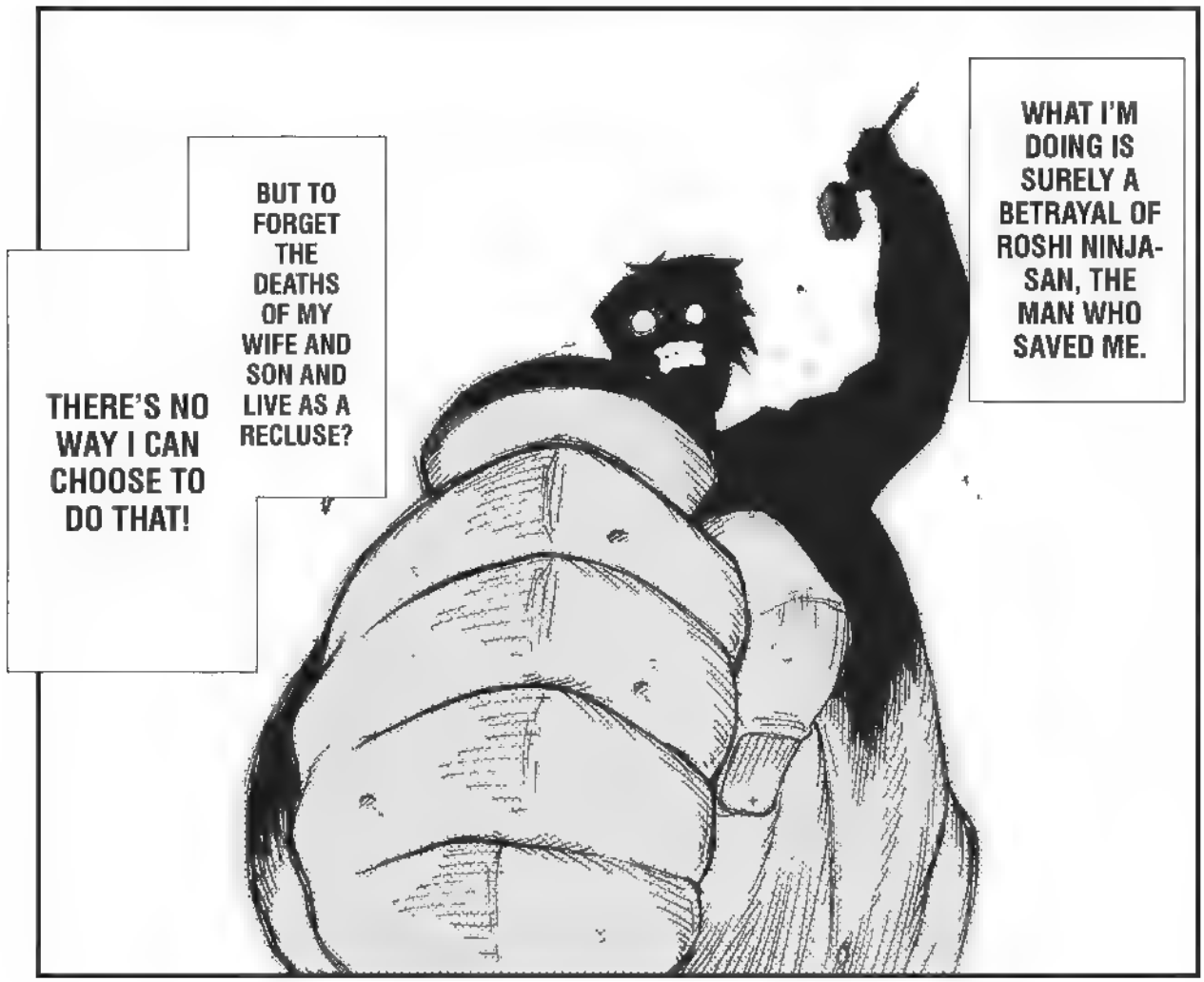
SIGN: SAFETY FIRST SHIRT: Yomochi Factory



A NINJA SOUL HAS TAKEN HOLD OF YOUR VENGEFUL HEART.

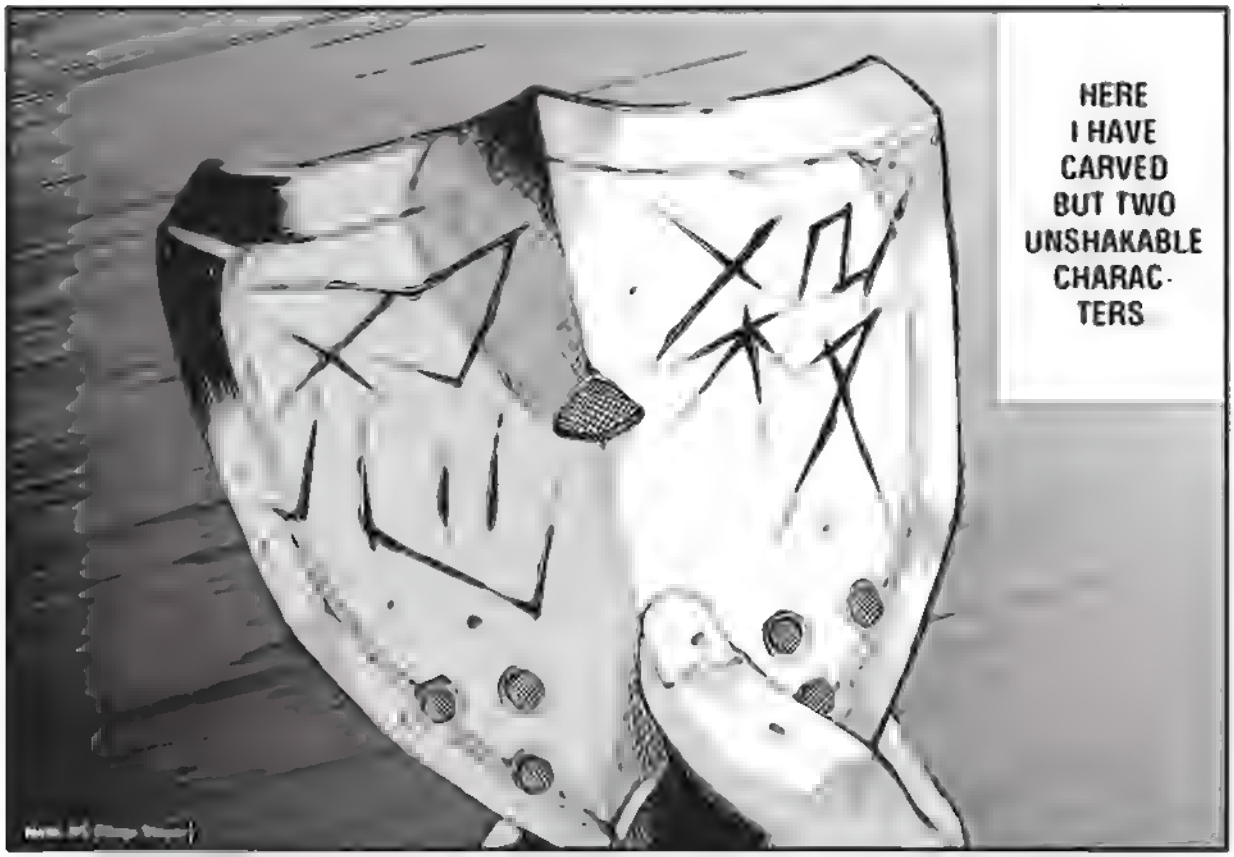
BATTLE WILL DRIVE YOU MAD.
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT SPREAD ANY MORE MISFORTUNE ...
LEAVE YOUR BATTLE BEHIND. SPEND YOUR DAYS LIVING A LIFE OF STABILITY AND RESPECT.

CLANG
SUMI-
MASEN.


WHAT I'M DOING IS SURELY A BETRAYAL OF ROSHI NINJA-SAN, THE MAN WHO SAVED ME.
BUT TO FORGET THE DEATHS OF MY WIFE AND SON AND LIVE AS A RECLUSE?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CHOOSE TO DO THAT!

KA-KLANG
KA-KLANG
EACH STRIKE OF THIS CHISEL IS, TOO, A STRIKE INTO MY HEART— A REMINDER TO NEVER AGAIN ALLOW THAT WICKED WILL TO CONSUME ME
TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO MURDERING THOSE EVIL NINJA...
TO STRIKING EVEN GREATER FEAR INTO THOSE DAMNED NINJA'S SOULS!!
KA
KLANG

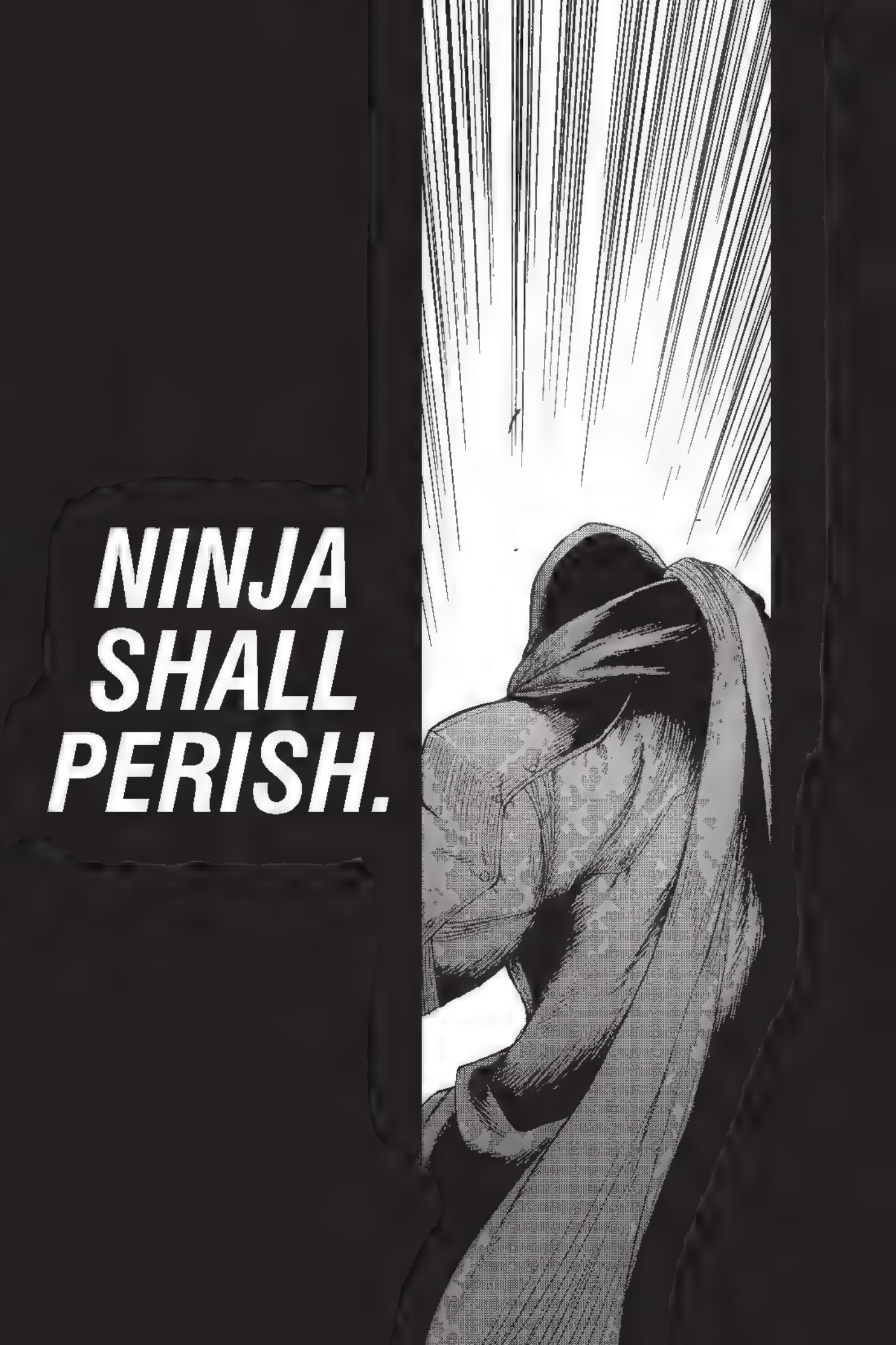
PA-
SST
WHOOSH
...
WHEEE
ENT-
I HAVE LOST EVERY-THING.
ALL I HAVE LEFT IS THIS NINJA BODY.
CLANK
HA


HERE I HAVE CARVED BUT TWO UNSHAKABLE CHARAC-TERS

SLAY...
...NINJA.

KA CLINK
KA CLINK
KLANG
CHIK
OH, TOCHI-NOKI!
ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED IN NINJA THAN IN MOMMY AND DADDY?
KA CLINK
IT'S A NIN-JAAA!!
YEEART! IT'S A NINJA!

BA-
CHANK
THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH FOR ME.


NINJA
SHALL
PERISH.

ZAK
NO MERCY.
KKT

ZAK-
NOW REMEMBER HOW DID THE NINJA SOUL MOVE MY BODY?
THESE ARE THE RECORDS OF NINJA FIGHTING TECHNIQUES I HAVE MANAGED TO SALVAGE FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY MEMORY

FLASH
BOOOM
"PARAPONERA." RIGHT HAND STRIKE DODGE BULLETS. INDUCE AN ATTACK.
Fang
Gaster
Kick open
KILL
WAIT UNTIL HIS BITE APPROACHES. AND...

PA-
DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW WITH A SOMER-SAULT KICK.
SKRRK
POW

NURRGH ...!!
WOBBLE
THD
THD
THD
GWOOSH

WHEELDER.
FACE OFF.
CHARGE.
DODGE
CHOP.
DUCK
TO THE
LEFT.
Chop critical strike
Karate stress
HOW DID
I MOVE?
HOW DID
I KILL?

THESE ARE LESSONS I CANNOT AFFORD TO FORGET.
Crack in head
Still moves
Pain from bullet
Effects of
Active blood
AS I RETRACE MY KARATE MOVEMENTS, I LEARN ANEW THE PURPOSE OF EVERY JOINT, EVERY MUSCLE.
WHY? BECAUSE MY BATTLE WILL SOON RESUME ONCE MORE.
WOO
BA-KRAK
YEARK!
WITHOUT FAIL.

GA-
WOOM

THESE FORCES ARE NOT THE TYPE TO BACK DOWN AFTER THEIR TROOPS ARE KILLED BY A SINGLE MAN.
IT WOULD NOT BE A MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT MORE ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY.
AND I AM SURE ...
...THAT SOON—

...!!

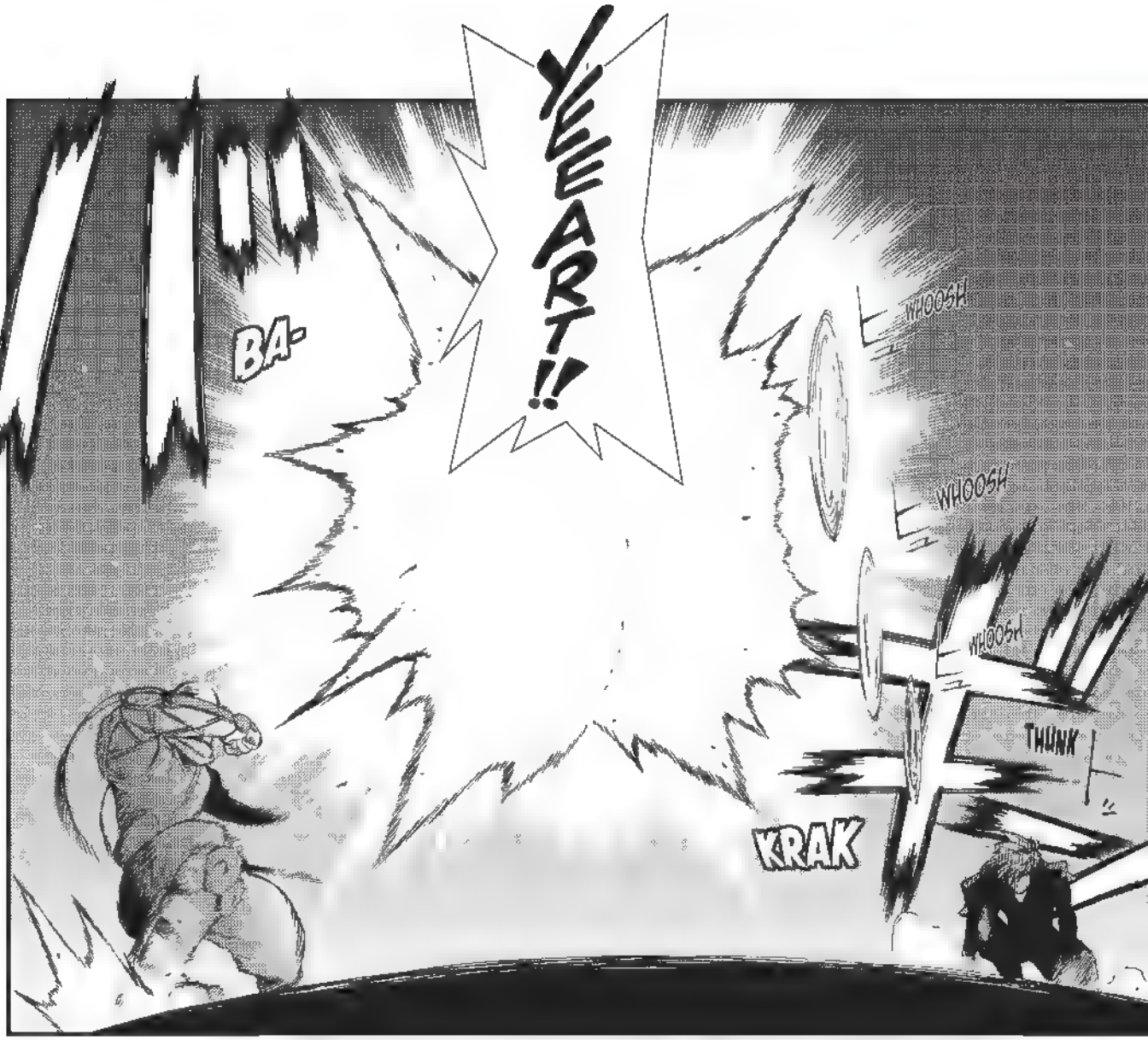
BA-

WE ARE!!

BOOM

FWOOM
YEEARR!
WHOOSH

HI
GA-
YUUART!!
KLASH
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
NUURGH ...!


YEAAH!!
BA-
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
THUNK
KRAK

SWOOP
YOU FIGHT WITH THE KARATE OF A STRAY DOG.
...I SEE.

DOMO PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE
I AM DOMINANT.

HE'S STRONG.
DOMO. PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, DOMINANT-SAN.
SST
THAT IS THE BOW OF A NINJA WHOSE KARATE SKILLS CANNOT BE DOUBTED.
HE'S NOTHING LIKE THOSE OTHER NINJA I HAVE DEFEATED UP UNTIL NOW...!

WH-
A BIG NAME FOR A SAN-SHITA!!
AMP
KLAKT
KRAK
BSSHT
GA-
...
I AM NINJA SLAYER.
SHK

KA-
flap flap
KLAK
SO YOU'RE THE LOWLY BEAST WHO STAINED THE HONOR OF THE SOUKAI SYNDICATE ...
KLINK

PA-
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
ONLY ONE KIND OF DEATH BEFITS THE LIKES OF YOU!
POW

YOU WILL DIE COVERED IN FILTH.

BA-
BOOM
YEEART!!
KREEEAK

GRANDFATHER
...
...
...
ONE WHO HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A NINJA CAN NEVER RETURN TO BEING A MAN
...AND FOR ONE SUCH AS HIM TO RETURN TO A NORMAL LIFE SEEMS EVEN MORE UNLIKELY...

GRAK

GRAK

GRAK

GRAK

KA-

GRAK

YEEART!!

WHOOSH

BA-BAM

FSHINK

YEEAR!
GRAK
POP
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
?!
BAM

GWAAH!!
BAM
POW
ZAP
WHOOSH
GROOOOOAR
FWOOM
KLUNK

KA-
BOOM
GWAAAH!!
FLASH
THUNK
KLANG
GA-WOOM
YEEART!!
THUNK

GRAK
GRAK
NURRGH
GRAK
SKRR
GWOOOOM
HIS POWER MUST BE THAT POWERFUL
MY HASTILY ASSEMBLED ARMOR IS USELESS I MIGHT AS WELL BE NUDE
BAM
HOW DO YOU KILL HIM?
FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS

!!

GA-

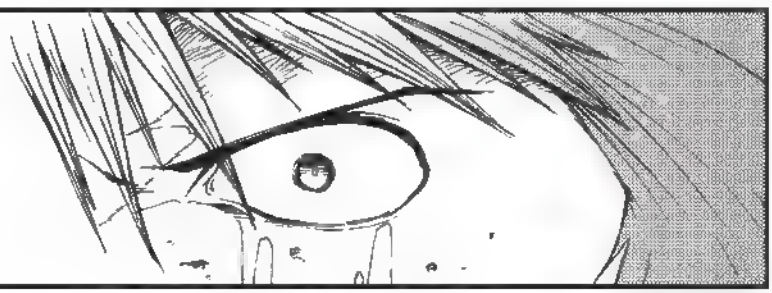
WOOSH

YEAH!

FOCUS ON EVADING HIM
A SINGLE MISJUDGED MOMENT COULD PROVE FATAL
DON'T ALLOW YOUR EYES TO LEAVE YOUR ENEMY FIND YOUR OPPORTUNITY
AWAKEN THE MEMORIES OF PAST BATTLES THAT HAVE BEEN CARVED INTO YOUR BODY
!!

DSSH
GWAAAH!
FWOOM
PSHT
LOOK AT YOU. SQUIRMING LIKE A BIO-UNAGI TRYING TO ESCAPE THE CHOPPING BLOCK.
GRIT
...!
AND YOU DARE THINK THAT YOU CAN OPPOSE LAOMOTO KHAN?!

HE'S
FLUSTERED.



IN THE RECESSES FAR BEHIND HIS EYE, I CAN SEE HIS STRONG SENSE OF PRIDE... HIS LOYALTY... HIS AMBITION...

...BUT AMONG THESE, I CAN DETECT A GLIMPSE OF AGITATION— THE FEELINGS OF A MAN WHO IS SHAKEN BECAUSE HE CANNOT BRING HIS BATTLE TO AN END.

I SEE NOW.

MY ENEMY AND I SHARE THE SAME PERSONALITY.

THEN I HAVE A CHANCE.

THERE IS SURE TO BE A MOMENT WHEN HIS JUDGMENT FAILS HIM!

...THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO RECITE MY HAIKU.

YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO DIE IN THIS BATTLE, DOMINANT SAN.
FOR I—
...AM THE SLAYER OF NINJA.

YEEART!!
BOOM!

BOOM
HUURK
HUURK
HUURK
!!
BA-
NOW!
WOOF

YEAH!!
POW
ZA-
KA-
A WEAK-LING LIKE YOU...
...WILL ONLY LOOK LIKE A FOOL PUTTING ON SUCH AIRS!
KRAK
KREAK
KREAK
KRIK

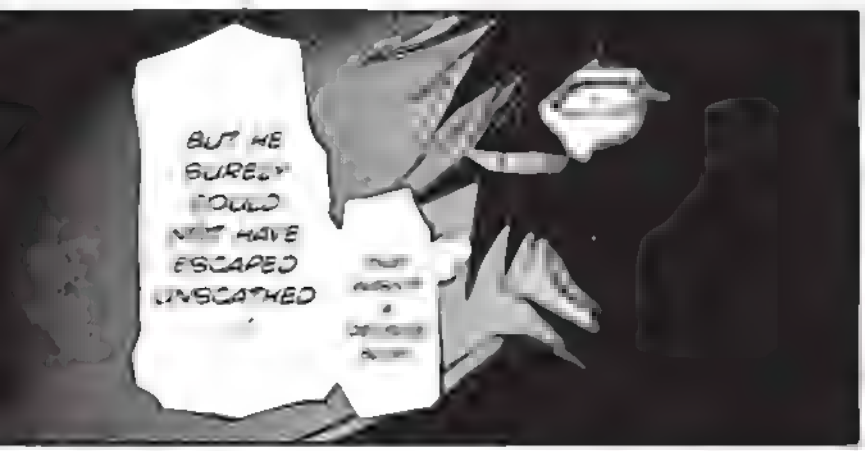
GA-
WOOSH
FLING
GWAAH?!

GNAAHH!!
GA-
KRAK
THE FOUNDA-TIONS OF YOUR DUBIOUS KARATE...
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
...HAVE BEEN LONG FRAC-TURED !!

SCRR-
FA-
KLANK
WOOM
LAMENT YOUR INFERI-ORITY IN HELL!
PA-
PA-
PA-
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
DARK KARATE TOSS !!
IT ENDS HERE!
PA-
GURRGH ...
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

HELL WHEEL KURUMA!
BOOM

POLICE TAPE: Get away and stay there/"Out keep"


BUT HE SURELY COULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED UNSCATHED

WEEEEE
AUUUU

STAND.
HOW MANY MORE SECONDS UNTIL HE ARRIVES?
YOU CAN'T ALLOW SUCH MINOR INJURIES TO STOP YOU!!
AUUUU

STAND!
DIE HERE, AND ALL WILL BE LOST AGAIN!
TODAY SIMPLY HAPPENED TO BE THAT DAY
ALL...
...WILL BE LOST...

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS THIS THE SOMATO RECALL PHENO-MENON ...?
WHERE, WHEN ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, THE SIGHT OF PAST MEMORIES SIGNALS ONE'S DEPARTURE FROM THIS MORTAL WORLD...?

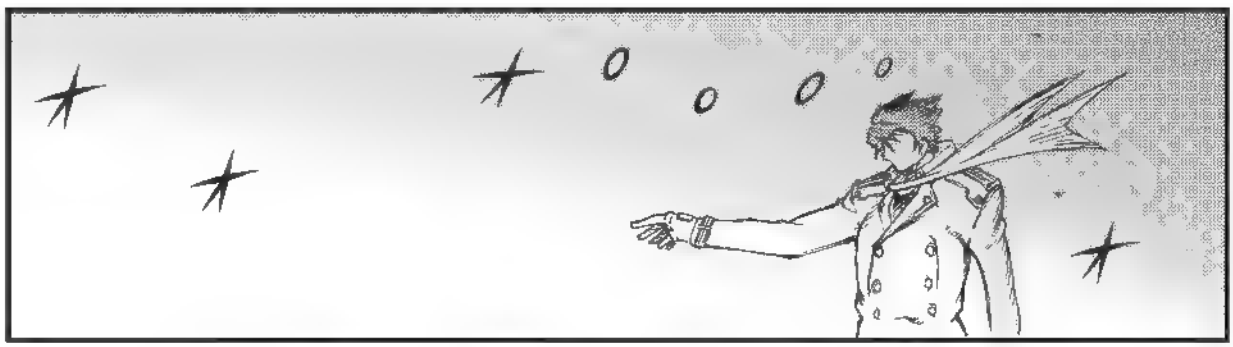
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DID NOT RETURN IN ORDER TO DIE HERE.
ANS-WER ME.
YOU, THE NINJA SOUL RESIDING WITH-IN MY BODY...

BAM

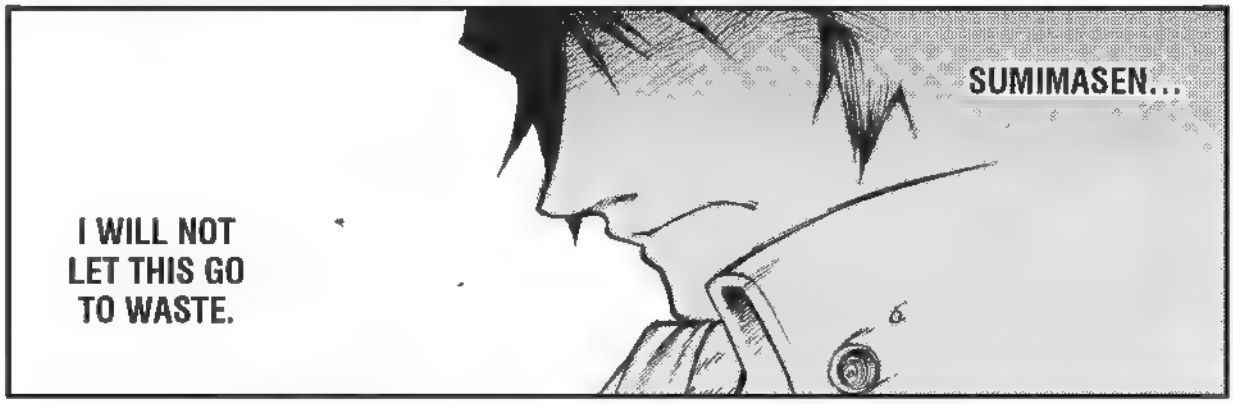
-NO!

ANSWER ME, NARAKU NINJA!!

GA-
GUH-HAH... GU HA HA HA HA !!
SO YOU WERE ABLE TO COMPRE-HEND MY PRESENCE ON YOUR OWN, FUJIKIDO?! IMPRESSIVE !!
WOOSH!
...
FUJI-KIDO!!
NOW HURRY! REMOVE THE SEAL!
THAT'S RIGHT! WITH MY POWER, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXACT YOUR REVENGE !!



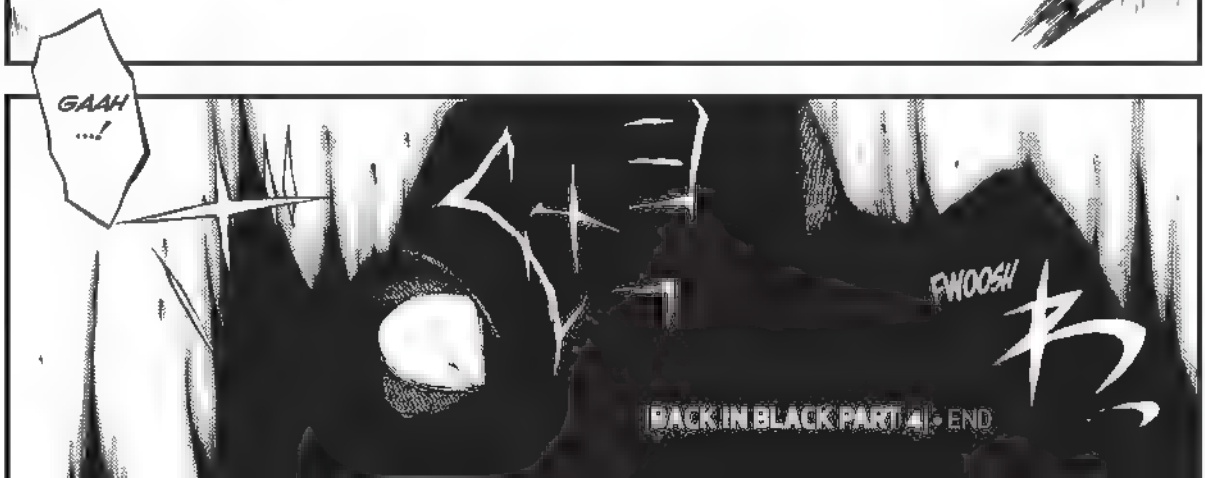
LEAVE YOUR BATTLE BEHIND.
SPEND YOUR DAYS LIVING A LIFE OF STABILITY AND RESPECT.


SUMIMASEN...
I WILL NOT LET THIS GO TO WASTE.

I WILL KILL THE NINJA.
I WILL KILL ALL THE EVIL NINJA.
BUT...
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME ANY LONGER.

THIS ...
...IS MY BATTLE.
DAMN YOO-OOU !!

GA-
SNAP
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A BUNRAKU DOLL, A PUPPET...! I WILL NOT ALLOW THIS!
BWOOF
FUJIKIDOOOO!!
I WILL NOT LET THIS ...
...GO TO WASTE !!



BACK IN BLACK PART 4 - END

BA-
GWAAH!!
GRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

GAH ...!

I'LL BURN YOU TO ASHES FROM THE INSIDE OUT!!

HOW DARE YOU MOVE TO BITE YOUR MASTER'S HAND, DOG!!

WHO-EVER TOLD YOU SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE PER-MITTED ?!

ZA-

YOU NAÏVE CHILD!

WOOSH

BA-
WHY ?
WHY AM I UNABLE TO CONTROL YOU ?!
FUJI-KIDO!!
GRAK
KRR-
SILENCE ...
... NARAKU.
SST

POP
POP
POP
POP
I MUST NEVER ALLOW THAT WICKEDNESS TO CONSUME ME AGAIN.
I MUST CONTROL THE NINJA SOUL.
I WILL NOT...

...LET THIS GO...
...TO WASTE!!

AS MY MASTER ONCE TOLD ME, "THE COURIER WHO HURRIES DIES OF OVERWORK."
FOOLISHLY GIVING CHASE CAN BE A FATAL DECISION.
Wasshoi!!
BOOM

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU...
YOU DAMNED ZOMBIE !!
GA-WOOSH

WOOM
ZA-
KUWARA!
?!

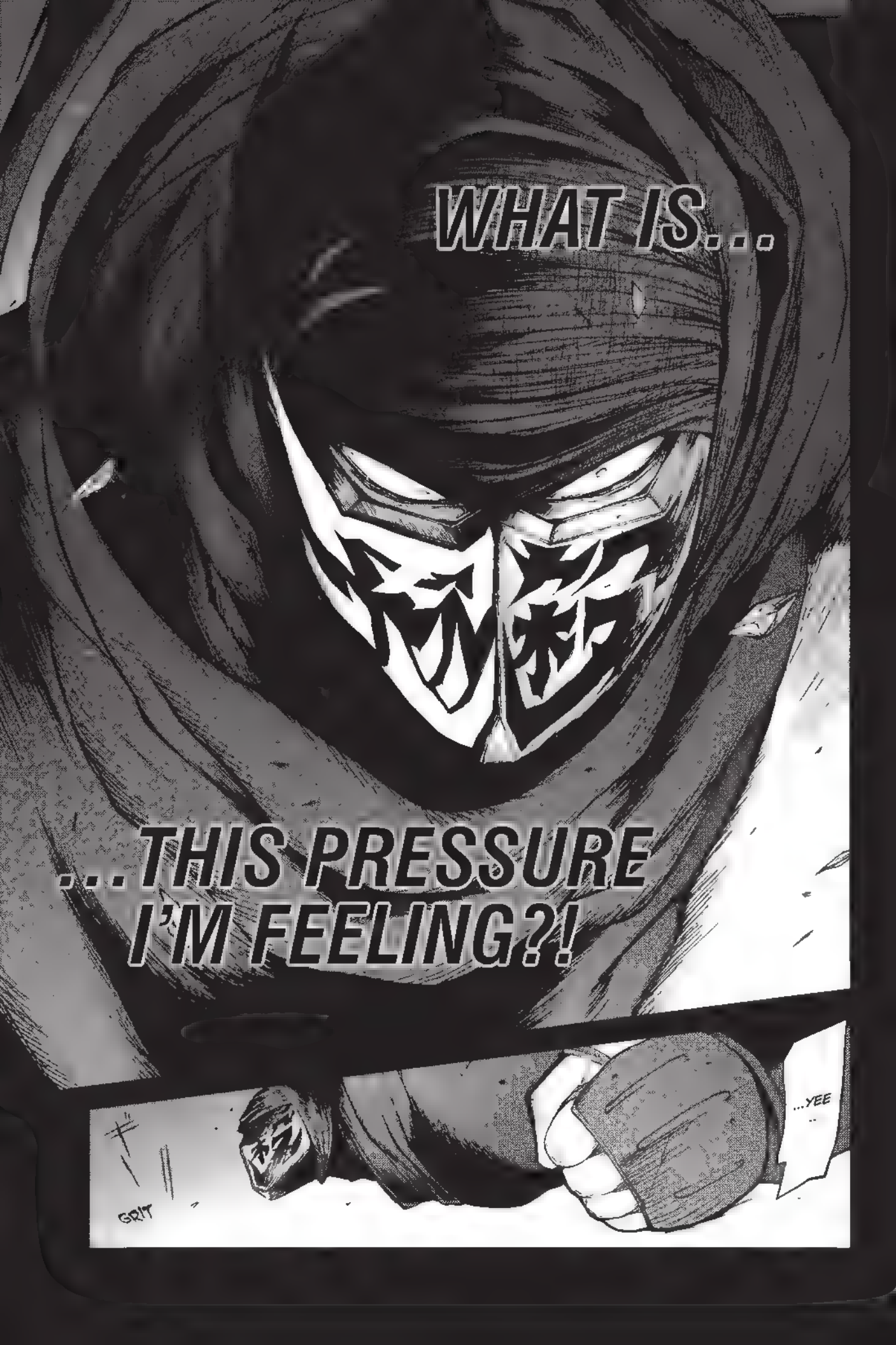
CHANK
BA
SWOOM!!
...THAT FOOL...!
HOW COULD IT BE?
DID HE TRULY AIM HIS STRIKE AT THE FULCRUM OF MY EMEICI?!
CLANG

GA-
WOOSH
DOMO,
DOMI-
NANT-
SAN.
I AM
NINJA
SLAYER.

BOOM
YEAR!!!
SHOT
WHOOSH
...WHAT WAS THAT AISATSU ?!
FWOOM
BYOOP
CHK
CHK
CHK
DOES HE THINK HE'S MY BETTER NOW ?!
BA
BAM

SCRROOO
BA-
YEEARK!
KLANG

SWISH
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
!!
GA-
YEARH!!
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
ZAKK
SSHH
MY ATTACK PIERCED HIS FOREHEAD! HOW DID HE STOP THE BLEEDING?
HOW CAN HE BE MOVING LIKE THIS?!
I LEFT HIM WITH LETHAL WOUNDS!


WHAT IS...
...THIS PRESSURE I'M FEELING?!
...YEE
GRIT

KA-
GRAK
GRAK
YEEEAAAAART!
YEEAAAAART!
GRAK
GRAK
NOW, DRIVE AN EVEN PURER KILLING INTENT INTO YOUR ACTIONS!!
USE IT TO AWAKEN YOUR ENTIRE BODY TO THE MEMORIES OF BATTLES PAST.
MY BLOOD IS IMBUED WITH KARATE AND NINJA ADRENALINE AS IT SURGES WITH EXPLO-SIVE FORCE THROUGHOUT MY BODY.

TH-
THUMP
YOU FOOL!
DO YOU TRULY THINK YOU CAN SLAY A NINJA WITH YOUR INEXPERI-ENCED KARATE ?!
GWAAH?!
BA-
SHHT
SUR-RENDER YOUR BODY TO ME AT ONCE!!
WHOOSH
YEAR!!
KRAK

WHAP
WHA...
IMPOS-
SIBLE
!!

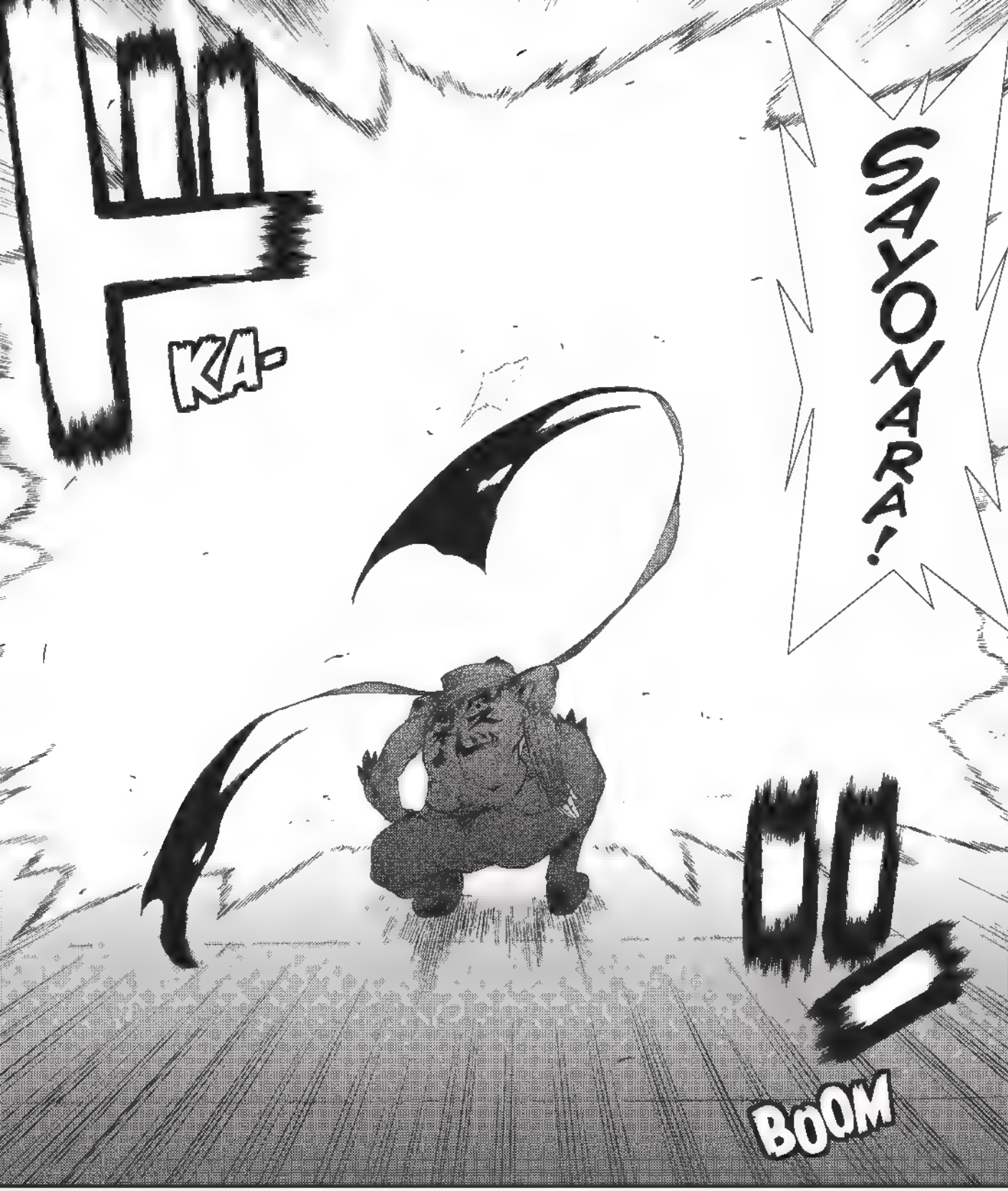
WHOOSH
NINJA ...
SLAYER!!
GRR-
NARAKU NINJA ...
RIT
YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME!!
BWOOSH

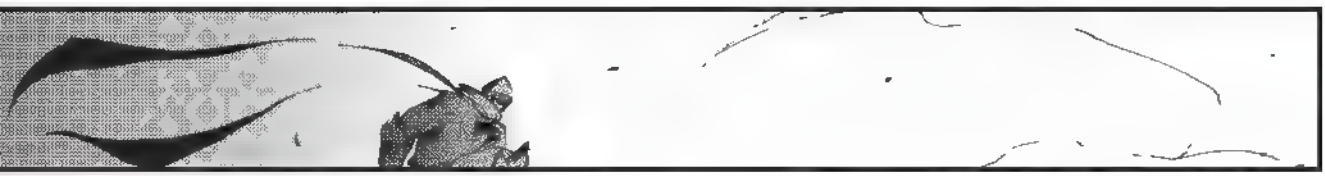
YOU MUST CONTROL ...
PA-
POW
KH
...THE NINJA SOUL WITHIN YOU.

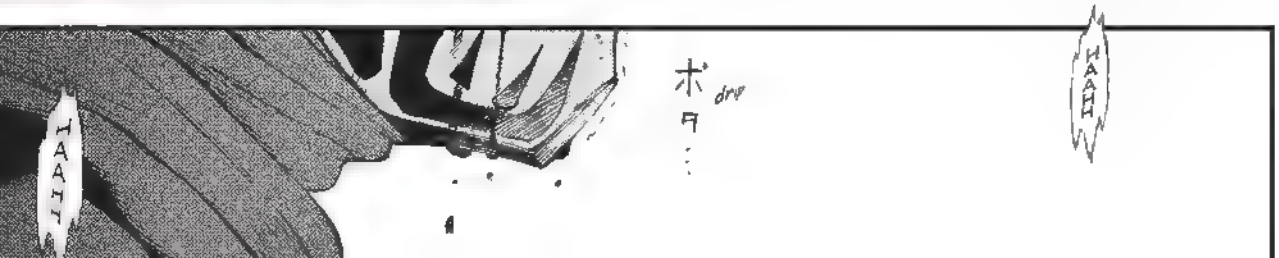
ZA
YEEARR!!
POW

KA-
KREEAK

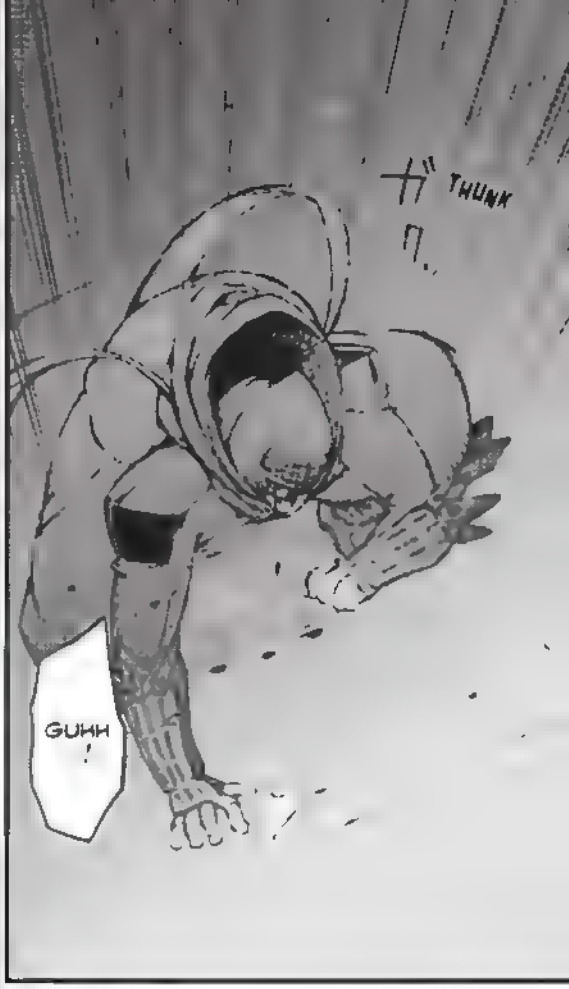
GWAAH!
GA-
YEEARR!
WHOOSH
GAH..
KRAK
FLASH
SA...
KREAK


KA-
SAYONARA!
BOOM

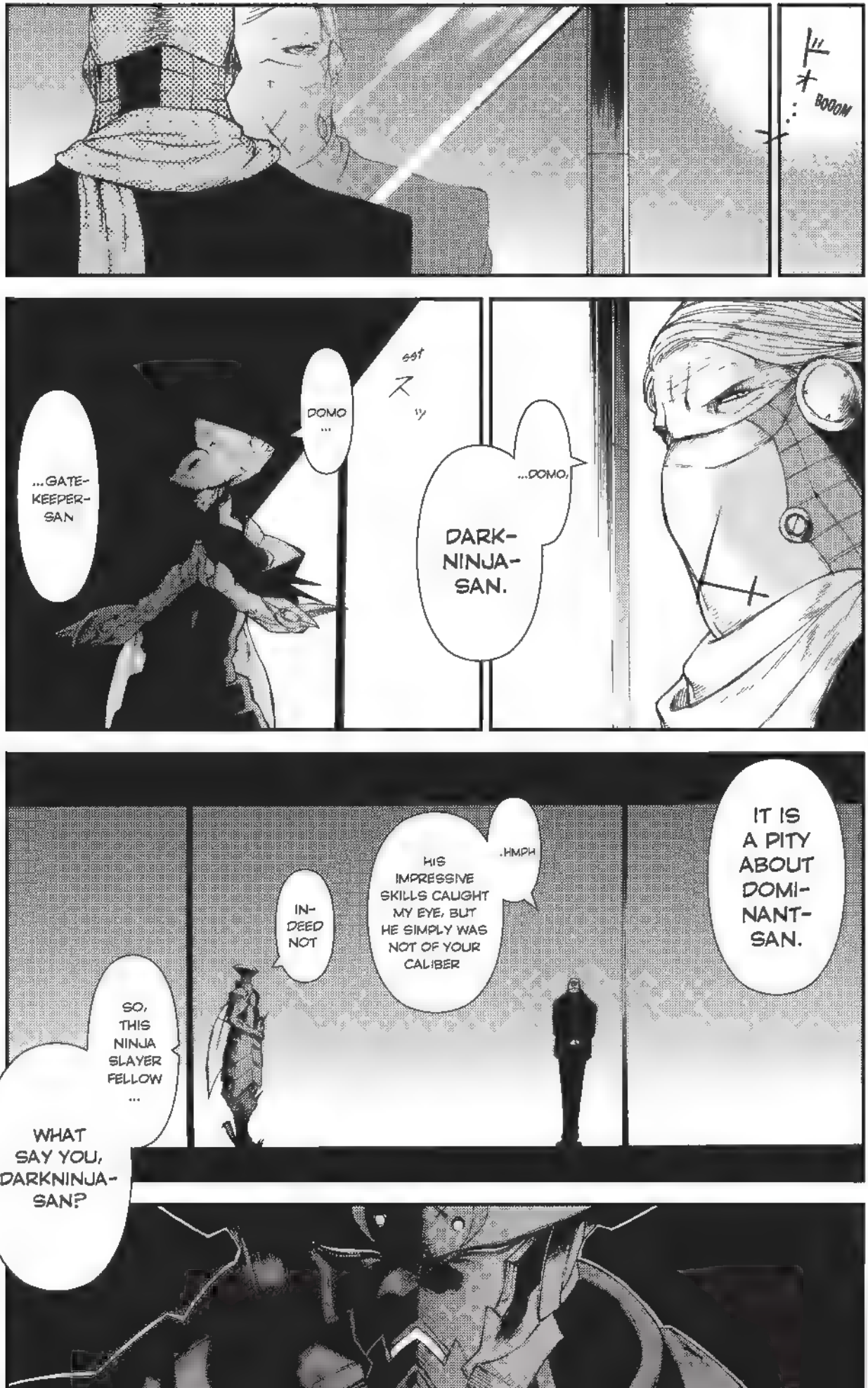



HAAH
ポタ drip
HAAH

BOOM
BOOOM
忍


THUNK
GUHH

BOOOM


BOOOM
...GATE-KEEPER-SAN
DOMO ...
...DOMO,
DARK-NINJA-SAN.
IT IS A PITY ABOUT DOMI-NANT-SAN.
.HMPH
HIS IMPRESSIVE SKILLS CAUGHT MY EYE, BUT HE SIMPLY WAS NOT OF YOUR CALIBER
IN-DEED NOT
SO, THIS NINJA SLAYER FELLOW ...
WHAT SAY YOU, DARKNINJA-SAN?

THAT TIME HAS YET TO COME
EVER

AND THE NEXT, AND THE NEXT, AND THE NEXT BATTLE AFTER THAT .
AND THE BATTLE AFTER THAT.
THE NEXT BATTLE
I *WILL* KILL THEM.

[**BACK IN BLACK PART 5**] • END

NINJA SLAYER
KILLS!!

KLANG
SA KLANK
KLANG
KLANG
GA-KLANK

BA-
KLANG
YEARR!!
SWOOSH
YER NOT HALF BAD!
BUT YER LUCK RUNS OUT HERE!
GA-
TIME TO PUT AN END TO YER NINJA-SLAYING RECORD ...
WOOM
SIX GATES OF SOUKAIYA:
BANDIT

NINJA SLAYER-SAN!!
NINJA SHALL PERISH.
NO MERCY.

TOKOROZAWA PILLAR,
13TH FLOOR. TRAINING ARENA.

ヴォルルル…

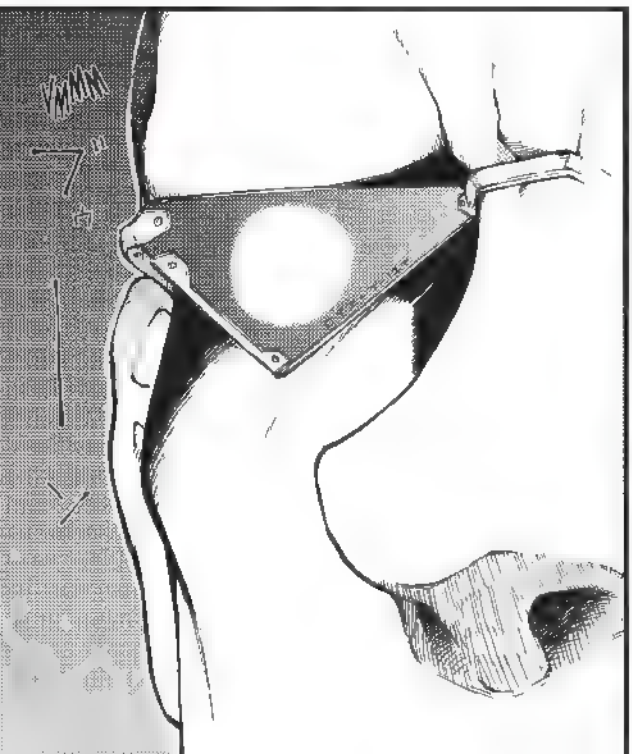
GRRR

GRR-

ROAR

犬
GRR-
ROAR
O O

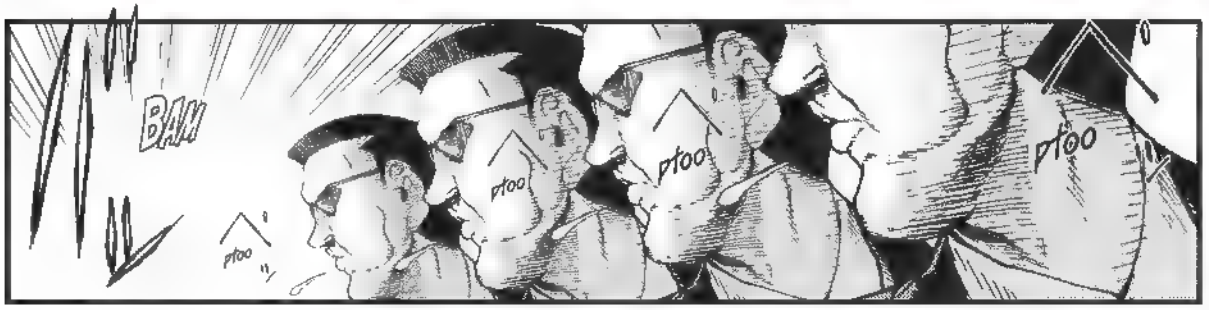
TOKOROZAWA PILLAR,
13TH FLOOR. TRAINING ARENA.



BEGIN.
DIP
GRR-
ROAR
A leap
SHRR

ズ
BA-
ZOOM
ズバン
BA-ZOOM
バン
BANG
ボ
BOOM
ボ
BOOM
バ
BA-BOOM
ボ
ボ
BOOM
ボ
BOOM
ボ
BOOM
ボ
BOOM
BANG
バ

THU-
CHA-CHIK
SPLAT


BAM
PTOO
PTOO
PTOO
PTOO

OUR COMPANY'S LATEST Y-12 CLONE YAKUZA UTILIZES NOTHING BUT STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY
WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!
BOW
BOW
CHAP
YOROSHISAN PHARMACEUTICALS DID AN EXCELLENT JOB!
CLAP
MUA-HAH-HAH!
I SEE THEIR SPITTING ACCURACY IS CONTINUING TO IMPROVE AS WELL!
CLAP

OH?
THE Y-12 ARE INVINCIBLE!
WHETHER LION, POLICE, OR SUMOTORI, THEY HAVE NO EQUAL
CLONES PROVIDE A UNIQUE SENSE OF UNIFORMITY!
THEN RELEASE HUGE SHURIKEN.
ガコ
GA-KLANK
TH-THUNP
HUH ?!
GWOOMP
GWOOMP
PFAT
GWOOMP

GWOOMP
GWOOMP
GWOOMP
GA-
WOOSH

SIX GATES OF SOUKAIYA:
HUGE SHURIKEN
CHAK
TOO SLOW.

KLAK

swish

GA-

WOOSH

T

T

T

T

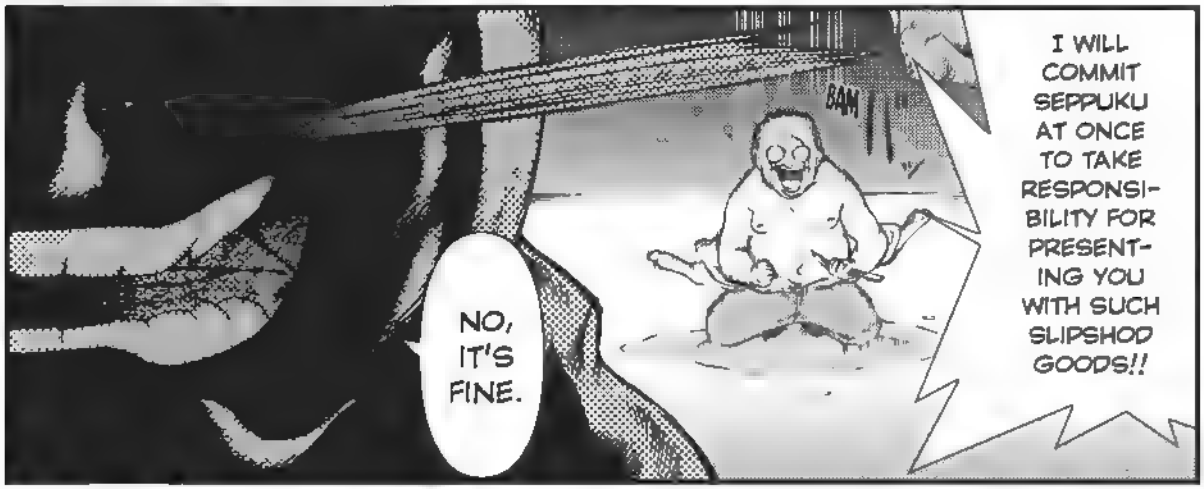
SGREEEEE

BA-
YEEARK!!
DUG
DUG

SWOOSH
ZA-
KRAK
SGRAK
SGRAK
SGRAK

BA-
SHINK
KRAK
BA-
GWAAAH!!
KLINK
SPLAAASH

*MOUSHIWAKE ARIMASEN = MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES



YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB AS ALWAYS, YOROSHI-GAN
A NINJA CANNOT BE KILLED BY A MASS-PRODUCED PRODUCT
ESPECIALLY NOT HUGE SHURIKEN ONE OF THE SIX GATES

YOU GOT MY OFFICE FLOOR DIRTY.
HOW-EVER ...

BA-
KIAK

AN ADMIRABLE PERFOR-MANCE,
HUGE SHURIKEN.
RIP
TEAR
TEAR
RIP
AIEEEEE!!

IT WAS A TRIVIAL TASK, LAO-MOTO-SAN.
I COULD BARELY TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND A FIELD OF RADISHES.
EARTH-QUAKE HAD SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
MIYAMOTO MASASHI'S PROVERBS COLLECTION
FIVE

KILLING CLONE YAKUZA, NO MATTER HOW MANY...
...PROVES NOTHING OF YOUR WAZAMAE.
SIX GATES OF SOUKAIYA:
EARTHQUAKE

I CURRENTLY HAVE TWO ENEMIES
THE SIX GATES WAZAMAE DOES NOT EXIST IN ORDER TO BE DISPLAYED AGAINST A BUNCH OF PUPPETS
EXACTLY. HUGE
THE DRAGON DOJO...
...AND NINJA SLAYER.

I HAVE ALREADY SENT BANDIT TO DEAL WITH THAT VERMIN NINJA SLAYER!
ZA-
YOU AND EARTH-QUAKE GO TOGETHER AND BURN THE DOJO DOWN!!
ZAKK
WITH PLEA-SURE!!

GWAAAH!!
ドカッ
THUK-
KUK-
KUK-
BA-
FLASH
SAYONARA!!
BOOM

SCROLL: Gokuhi (Top Secret)

KA-KLANG
SOME SORT OF SECRET MESS-AGE ...?
ARSON ...?
!!
IMPOS-SIBLE! COULD THIS MEAN ...?!

...I'M CERTAIN OF IT!
THEY'RE THE ONES FROM BEFORE ...!!
Dragon Dojo Arson Plan
YAKUZA
Dragon Gendaiso
Granddaughter Yukano

GYOOSH
THE CHUGOKU REGION

BA-
BRDOM
...
ROOM
ROOM
ROOM

WE'RE A TAD MUCH OF A RUSH TO WAIT FOR HELLKITE-SAN'S INFO. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BARTH?

I'LL PIN DOWN THE DRAGON DOJO'S LOCATION IN A JIFFY!
THE DEVILS ARE NO EXCEPTION!

UGH

WHY IS A NINJA HERE...?
A NINJA
YEEART!
SNAP
AIEEE!!

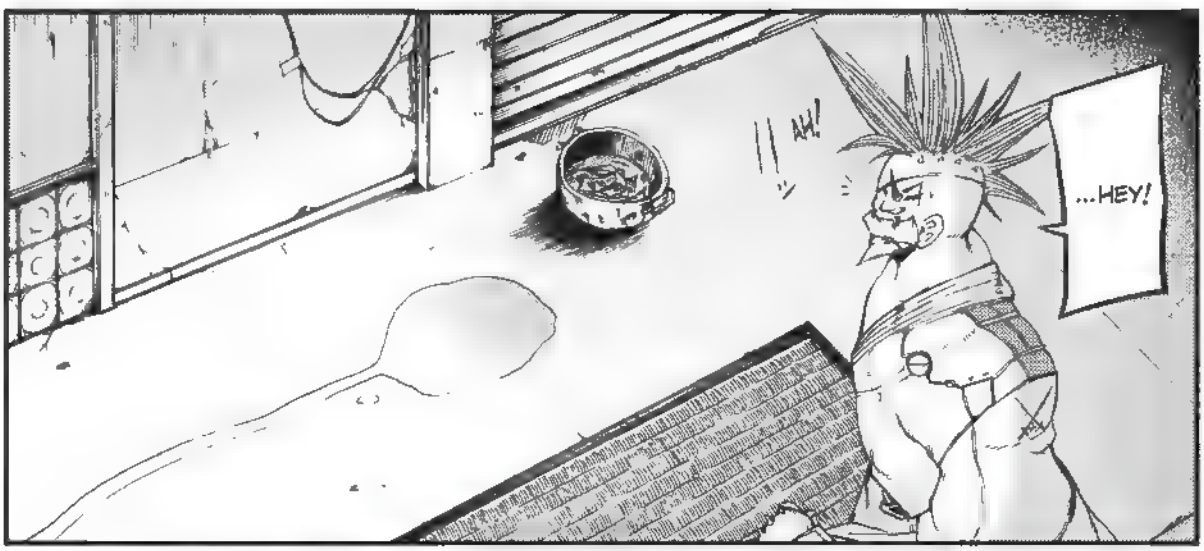
CHK
LEMME TELL YA KANBACHI-SAN
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ...
I DON'T KNOW

NOW, IF YOU DON'T ANSWER ME, I'LL BREAK YOUR RING FINGER NEXT.
I CAN THINK OF A HUNDRED TORTURES USING JUST THIS THING ALONE
I REALLY DON'T LOVE TORTURE I LOVE MORE THAN GETTING THREE SQUARES A DAY AND SEE THIS IC CHIP YOU'RE SE...N?

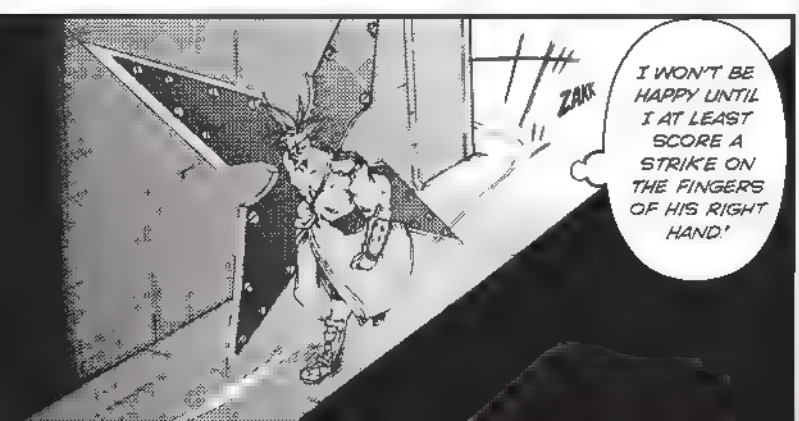
WHERE IS THE DRAGON DOJO?
TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW!
KRAS
AIEEE!!
BA-
YEARR!!

BEEP
WHAT IS IT, EARTH? I'M STILL INTER-VIEWING .
INCOMING CALL..
EARTHQUAKE
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
HMM ?
I'VE RECEIVED RECON DATA FROM HELLKITE-SAN.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HIS AERIAL RECON LOCATED THE DOJO. COME BACK.
HELL-KITE...
...
CLICK
..UNDER-STOOD.

THAT BAT BAS-TARD !!
BA-KRAK
ANOTHER BLATANT ATTEMPT TO SCORE POINTS...


AH!
...HEY!

MY INNOVATIVE TORTURE HAS ONLY BEGUN
HAH
GRIN


ZAK
I WON'T BE HAPPY UNTIL I AT LEAST SCORE A STRIKE ON THE FINGERS OF HIS RIGHT HAND!

ZAKK
ZAKK
ZAKK
I MEANT TO LET HIM GET AWAY.
THAT WAY, HE'LL BE IN A STATE OF DESPAIR, WHILE I FOLLOW AFTER HIM AT A LEISURELY PACE!
THAT DESPAIR IS THE SPICE THAT FURTHER ENHANCES THE RICH FLAVOR OF MY TORTURE!

HUH?

OUR INTERVIEW ISN'T OVER YET KANBAGI-SAN.
NOW, WHERE IS THE DRAGON DOJO?

AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO LEARN...
...THE DRAGON DOJO'S LOCATION?
GRRR
SHRRR

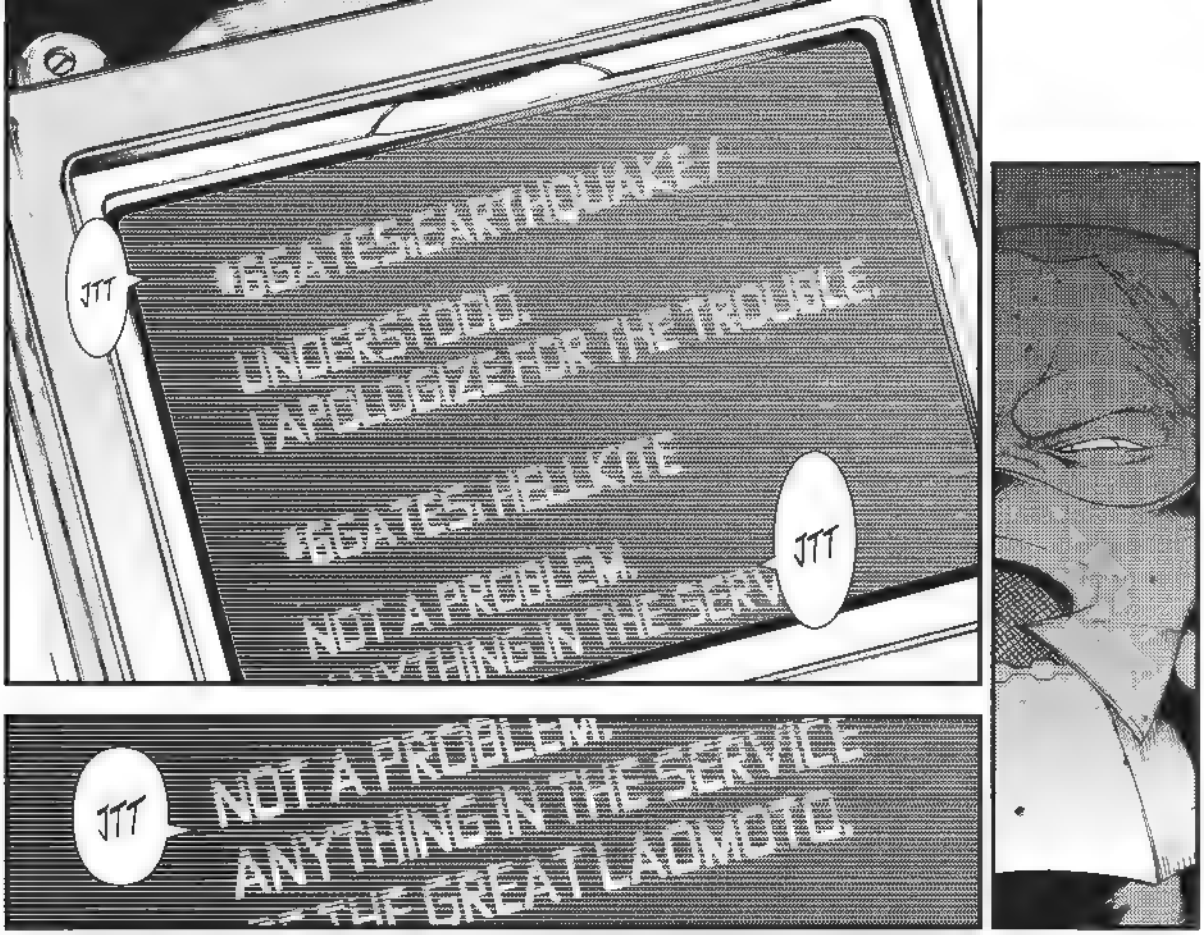
WHOOSH
BA-
YEAR!!
BAM
WA-
DAMN YOU...
WOBBLE
GRAK
CHK
BWOOSH

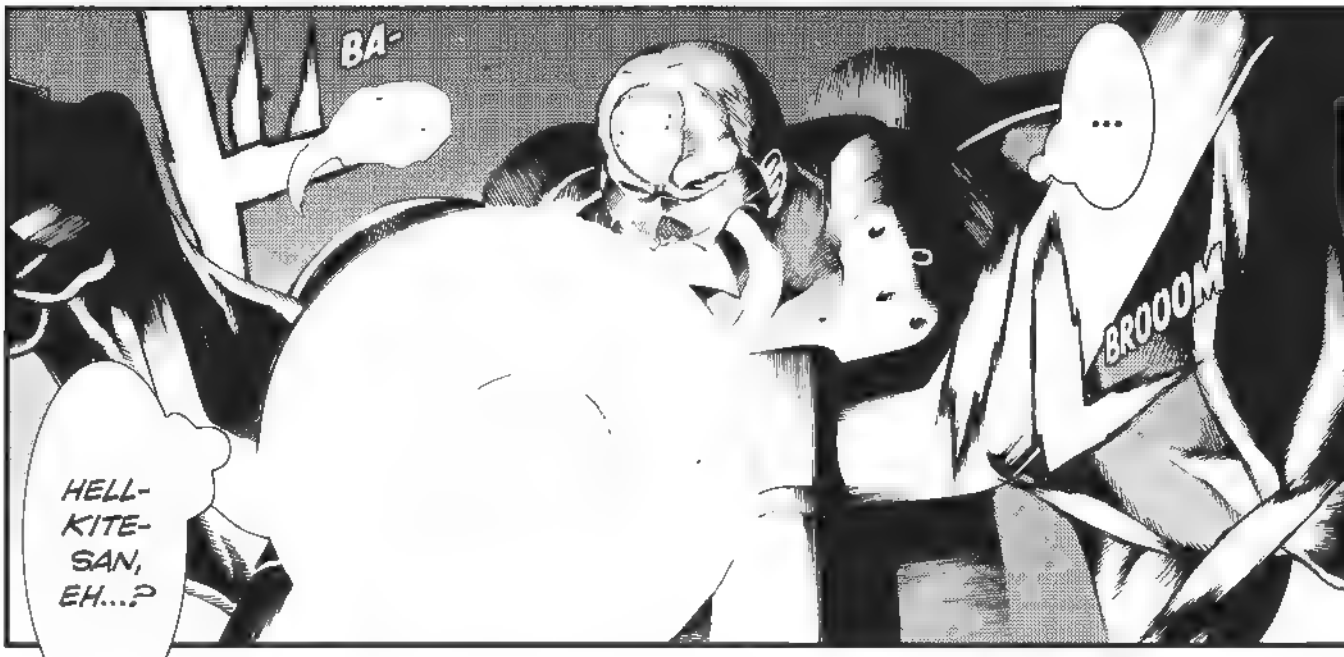
WHO ARE YOU ?!
BSSHT
P.A.
KLAP

DOMO.
I AM NINJA SLAYER.

YOU FILTHY SOUKAI SYNDICATE DOG.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT'S MY TURN TO DO THE INTER-VIEWING.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
HE'S TAKING TOO LONG
ARE YOU TRYING TO TEST MY PATIENCE SIR?


JTT
HGATES EARTHQUAKE!
UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL BULLDOZE FOR THE TROUBLE.
HGATES HELLKITE
A PROBLEM.
NOT A PROBLEM.
ANYTHING IN THE SERV
JTT
JTT
NOT A PROBLEM.
ANYTHING IN THE SERVICE
OF THE GREAT LAOMOTO.


BA-
...
BROOOM
HELL-
KITE-
SAN,
EH...?

GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK

GAA-
WHOOM
YEEART!!
BOOM
WHOOSH
GRIP
NU-URGH...

YEEART!!
BA
KLANG
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
THAT BAS-TARD!!
HE STARTED OUT BY DESTROY-ING MY DOMI-NANT EYE!
NOT ONLY THAT, I CAN'T THROW MY DAI-SURIKEN IN THESE ALLEY-WAYS!

SHUK
HWARA!!
WOOM
DON'T GET COCKY ...
GWUH...
KRA...

YOU WILD DOG !!
GWAAAH !!
YEEART !!
BLAM
GWAAH

HUH?
HAAH
GEN-DOSO-SAN...
HAAH
...AND YUKANO-SAN...
ZA-SHK
GAH ...!
GA-SHK
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING TO THEM ?!
SHWIP
JUST LIKE I'M GOING TO KILL YOU !!
ZAKK
I'M GOING TO KILL THEM.

TH-
GWAAAH!!
KRAK-
AK
NURGH ?!
KLAK
"THE CORNERED RAT'S BITE CAN KILL A CAT."
COULD THAT MEAN ...?!
BAM-BOO SPEARS ...?

BAM
YOU'RE LATE. I HAVE COME FOR YOU.
YOU...
HELLKITE
: MERELY SAVED YOU SOME TIME
HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!

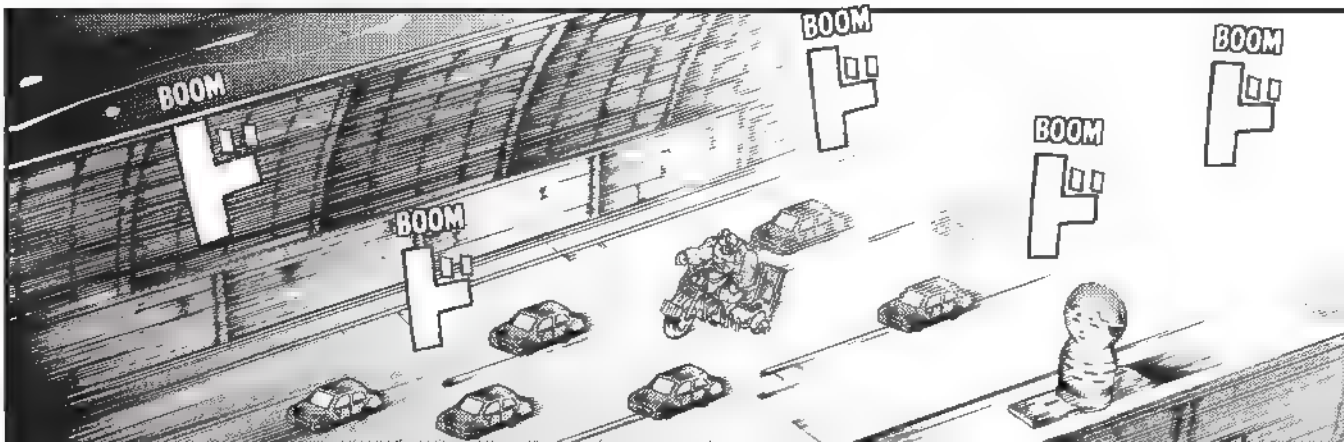
GRIT
YOUR ORDERS FROM LAOMOTO-SAN WERE TO BURN DOWN THE DOJO.
AT NO POINT DID HE EVER TELL YOU TO FROLIC WITH SEWER-RATS.
NUR-RGH ...!
...NOW THAT YOU UNDER-STAND ...
I APOLO-GIZE FOR THESE SOME-WHAT COARSE METHODS
WHAT?!
WE'RE NOT DONE TALK...
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WHOOSH
PA-
POW
GWAAH?!
GWAAH!
TUG
TUG
TUG
TUG
TUG

BOOM
...

[redacted]

[redacted]



HUGE ...!!
HOW DID YOU GET THOSE INJURIES ...?!
!!
WHAT?!
キュポーン
KA-POP
THAT USELESS BANDIT-SAN BUNGLED THE JOB...!
...IT WAS NINJA SLAYER-SAN.
WHAT...?! DID YOU JUST SAY— NINJA SLAYER-SAN?!

KSSH
GAHH...
THAT FOOL IS MAD...!
HE'S A WILD DOG FROM STRAIGHT OUT OF HELL...!
HE'LL... COME AFTER US... I KNOW IT...!
SKRR
...CALM DOWN!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE DOJO.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHY DID NINJA SLAYER-SAN APPEAR?
COULD IT BE A COINCI-DENCE?
COULD HE HAVE SOME SORT OF CONNEC-TION TO THE DOJO?
NO...
FOR NOW, WE NEED TO BURN DOWN THAT DOJO.
WE WILL DO AS LAO-MOTO-SAN HAS COM-MANDED.
FOR WE ARE THE SIX GATES OF SOU-KAIYA!

...
WHAT IS THE MATTER, YUKANO ?
GRAND-FATHER..
AH!
NOTHING ...
I WAS SIMPLY THINKING THAT THE MOON TONIGHT LOOKED OMINOUSLY LIKE A SKULL
ALMOST AS IF... IT IS THE SAME MOON I SAW THE NIGHT WE FACED OFF AGAINST THAT CRIMSON NINJA.

I HAVE
NOTHING ELSE !!
PLEASE GIVE ME INSTRUC-TION
PLEASE
...HM
...

NINJA SLAYER-SAN...
...

CREAK

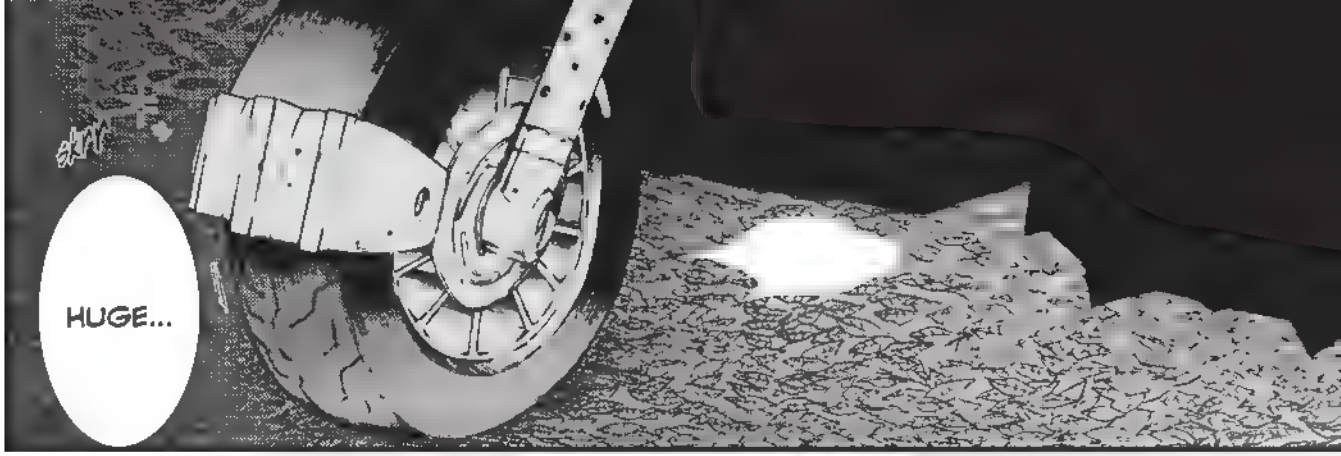
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
VA-
VROOM
VWOOM

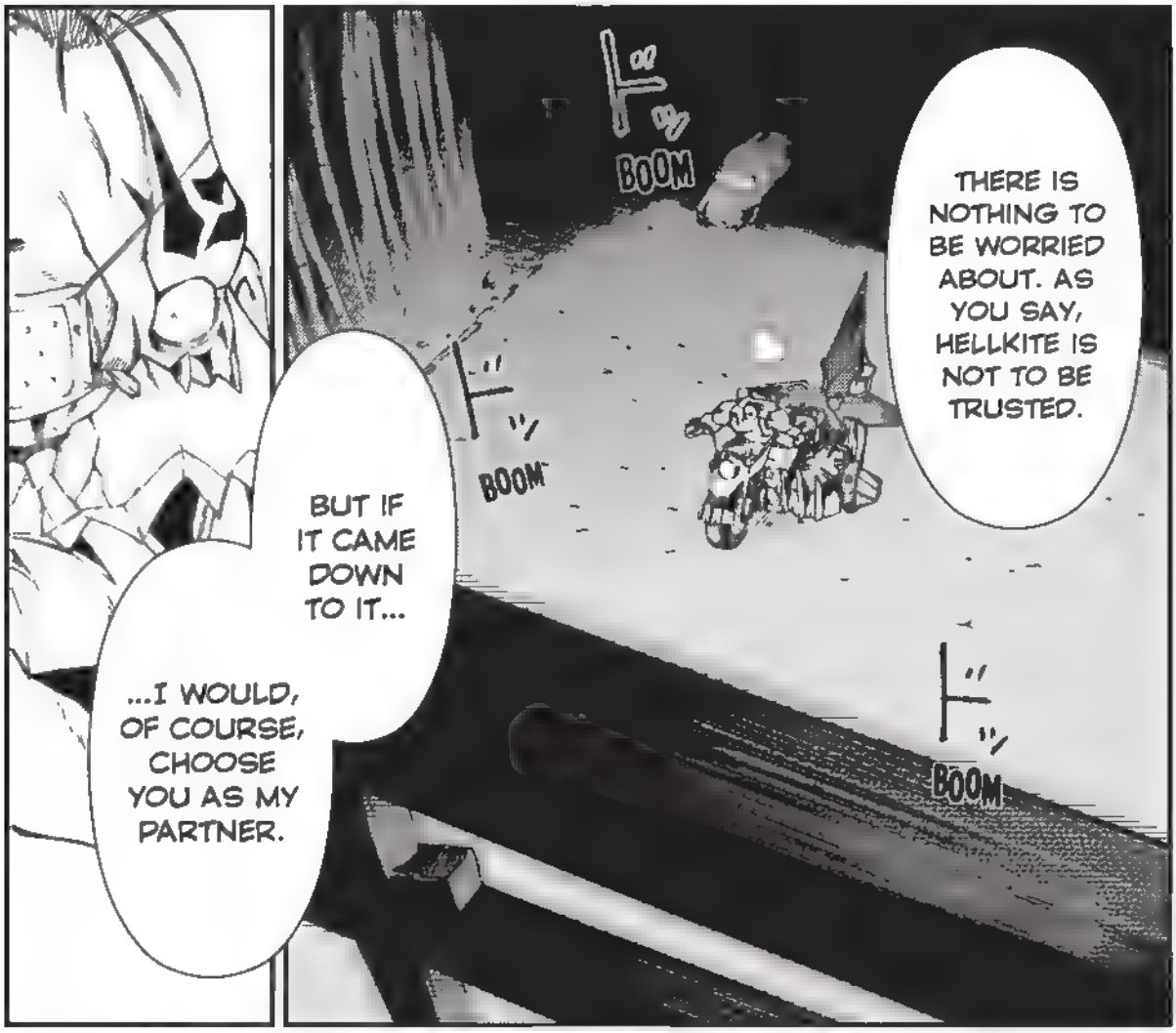
KILLS: 017 + SURPRISED COLD PLAYER 1
DO YOU TRUST HELLKITE ?

HIS HELICOPTER PURSUIT PLAN THAT GOT HIM INTO THE SIX GATES
THAT'S RIGHT.

AND HE'S GOING TO TRY TO LEAD US INTO A TRAP NEXT ...!!
HE'LL DO ANY-THING TO EARN A BONUS!!
CAN YOU TRUST A MAN LIKE THAT
...EARTH P!
BWOOM
NUR-RGH!
"ALWAYS BE ONE OF THE STRONG"
"CUT DOWN THE WEAK THERE IS NO NEED FOR MERCY"
THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ONE OF THE SIX GATES.

GRIT
YES, THAT'S TRUE...
BUT ...!
EVEN IF IT'S TRUE THAT GARGOYLE WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP ...
...HE ONLY DIED BECAUSE HE WAS A FOOLISH WEAKLING.
HELLKITE-SAN DEMONSTRATED HIS STRENGTH AND WAS ABLE TO JOIN THE SIX GATES BECAUSE OF THAT THAT IS ALL.
THE LOSS OF HUGE'S DOMINANT EYE IS HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HIS MIND.
HE HAS NO FURTHER STATUS TO GAIN, WHICH MEANS THERE IS NO REASON HE WOULD TRY TO UNSEAT US.
IS THAT NOT SO?
HE MUST REALIZE IT, THOUGH..
IF HE CONTINUES TO ACT WITH SUCH COWARDICE, HE HIMSELF WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING CUT DOWN.


SKAT
HUGE...


BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT. AS YOU SAY, HELLKITE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
BUT IF IT CAME DOWN TO IT...
...I WOULD, OF COURSE, CHOOSE YOU AS MY PARTNER.

THE SIX GATES MUST ALL ACT AS ONE— YOURSELF INCLUDED.
THE DRAGON DOJO IS A POWERFUL FOE. WE CANNOT LET OUR GUARDS DOWN
TOSS AWAY YOUR EGO.
FOR NOW, THOUGH, WE MUST FOCUS ON THE MISSION.

tug
...ALL RIGHT!
BA-
BROOM

KLAK

THE CLAPPERS LOCATED AROUND THE HALL HAVE ALL ACTIVATED AT ONCE
THIS ISN'T THE DOING OF A STRAY WATER BUFFALO
AN ENEMY WITH CLEAR INTENT TO HARM IS APPROACHING!
SHUDDER
SQUISH
YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO DIE HERE!

!!
KA-
BOOM
GRAND-FATHER!
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
THEY ARE FORCING THEIR WAY IN FROM THE VERY FRONT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE MINE-FIELD.
YES.

HAH-
HAAH!! OUTTA THE WAY, CLONE YAKUZA!
GA-
GWAAH!
GWAAH!
GRAK
GWAAH!
GRAK
GRAK
GRAK
TIME FOR YOU TO MAKE WAY FOR US!!

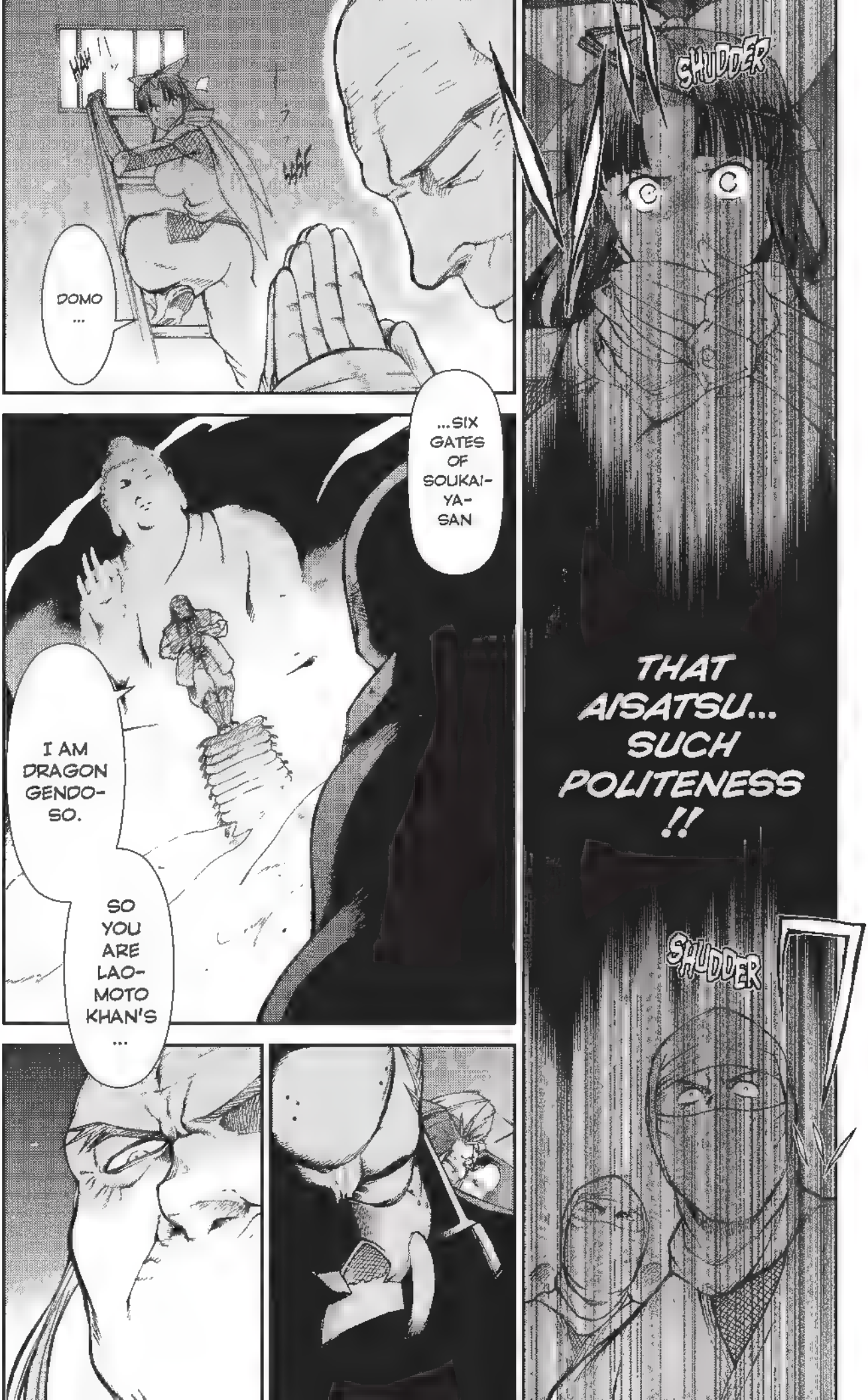
KA-BOOM

ALL MEN, PREPARE YOUR-SELVES!

DON'T LET THE INTRU-DERS LEAVE ALIVE !!

BA-
SGRR-
SGRR-
SGRR-
GA-THOOM
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
...!!
WHOA ...!

DOMO.
DRAGON GENDOSO-SAN.
WE ARE THE SIX GATES OF SOUKAIYA.
WE HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO BURN DOWN THE DRAGON DOJO.
GRR-
RIT


HAH
HAH
DOMO ...
...SIX GATES OF SOUKAI-YA-SAN
I AM DRAGON GENDO-SO.
SO YOU ARE LAO-MOTO KHAN'S ...
SHUDDER
THAT AISATSU... SUCH POLITENESS !!
SHUDDER

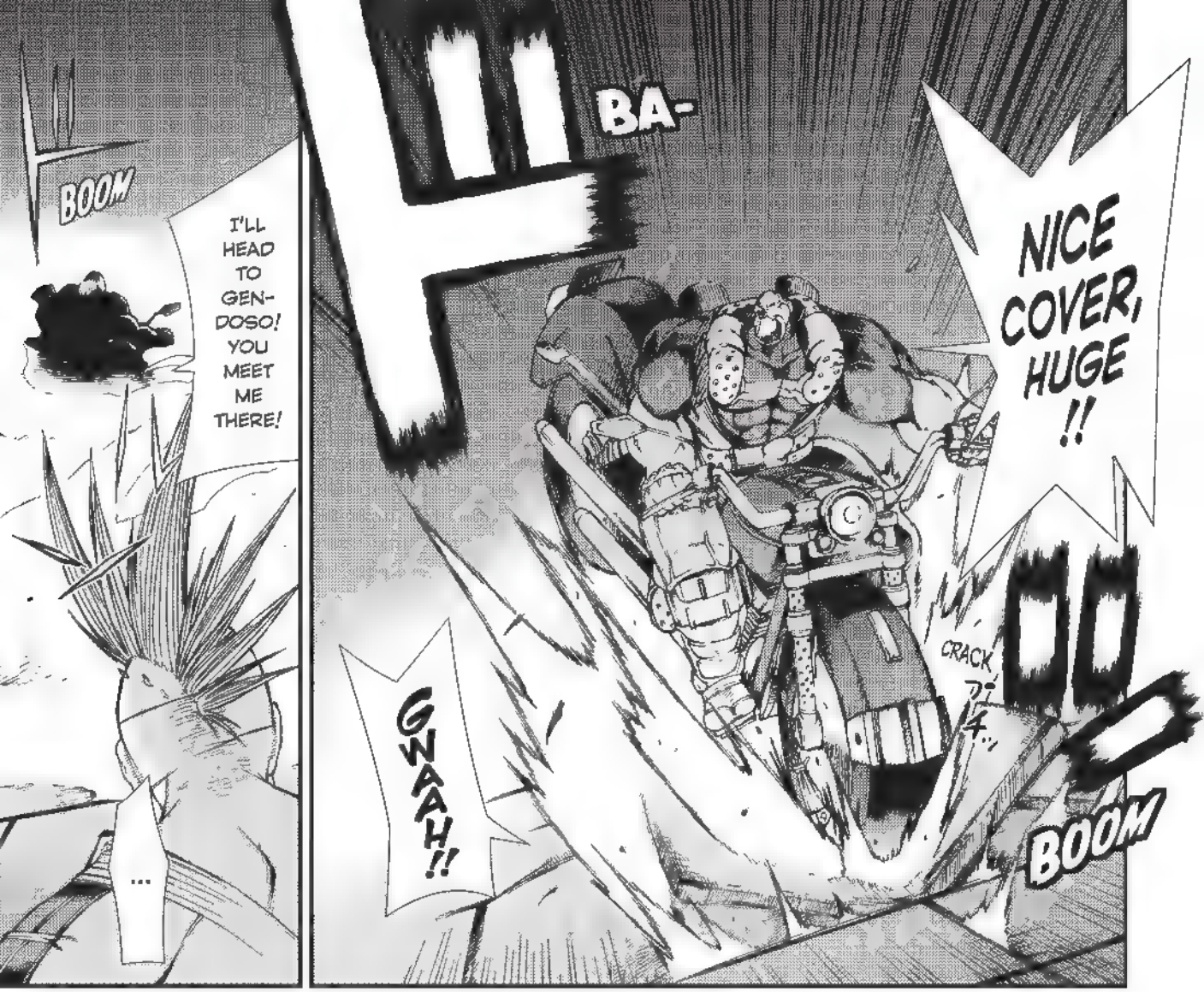
BEEP
BOOM
POW
WHSSSSSHHH
POW
POW
YAH-HAA-AH !!
BA-
HAH-HAAH !!
SHAK
!!
POW

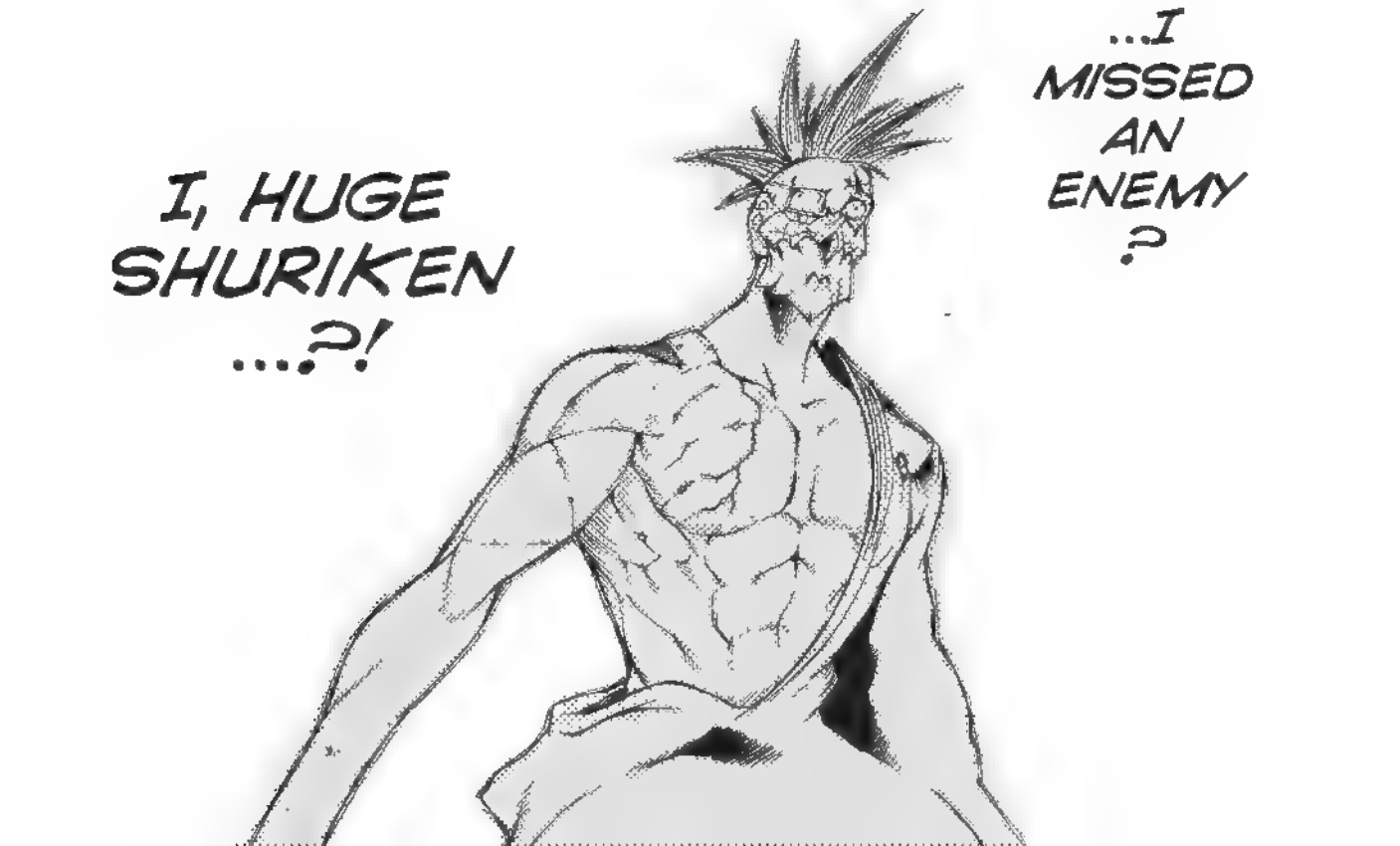
URGH
BOOM
A SMOKE SCREEN? WHAT COWARD-ICE !!
WE CANNOT LET THEM APPROACH OUR MASTER AND HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER !!
ZAKK
POW
POW
POW
POW
GWAAH!!

NAY !!
YOU MUST STAY FO-CUSED !!
DASH
JWAAK!!

EEEEEE
BOOM!!
YEEART!!

WHOOSH
GUK
SH
AH...
GWAAAH!!
BA-
SPLAAASH
...?!
BAM
FWOOM
フォーッ
IMPOS-SIBLE!
OUR ARROW-HEAD FORMA-TION...!
...
...WHAT?!


BOOM
I'LL HEAD TO GEN-DOSO! YOU MEET ME THERE!
...
BA-
NICE COVER, HUGE !!
CRACK
GWAH!!
BOOM


I, HUGE SHURIKEN ...?!
...I MISSED AN ENEMY ?

THE OLD HUGE SHURIKEN WOULD HAVE MADE A STRIKE. I'M SURE OF IT.
I... WHAT POINT DO I HAVE FOR EXISTING ANY-MORE ..?
KYUWAH!!
GWOOOH
BA-
CLNG
YEEARR!!

THUK
GRIT
HOW IMPU-DENT ...!
DID YOU REALLY JUST TRY TO AMBUSH ME FROM A BLIND SPOT ?!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

BOOM
YEARR!!
SNAPPT
KREAK
GUH ...!!

GWAAH?!
EH-
SPLAT
BRRRG
HOW'S THAT FOR AN IMPUDENT AMBUSH
SIX GATES OF SOU-KAIYA-SAN P
AR-RAR

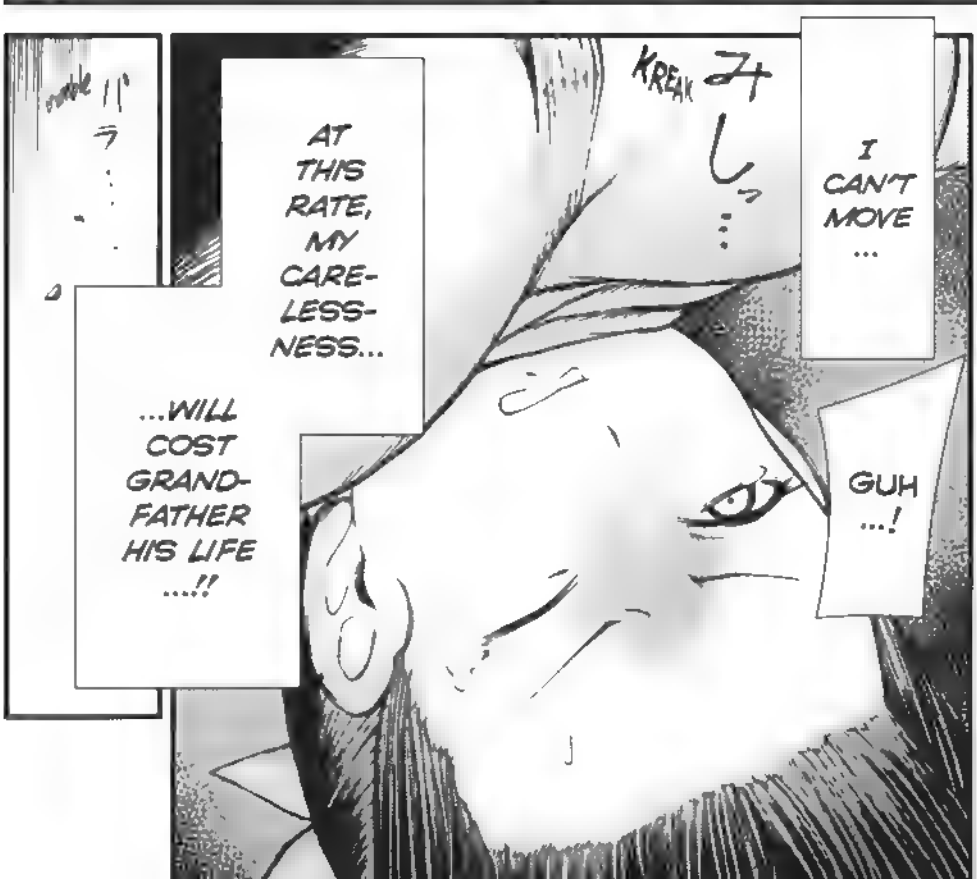
YEEART!!
BOOM
NAARGH!
GUH ...
KRAK
HOW CARE-LESS !!
ZOOM
WASN'T HE HEADED... TOWARD GRAND-FATHER ...?!

!!
YEEART!!
GRAB
JERK
NAARGH!
E...
EARTH
HAA-
HAAH
DID
...YOU
...?!

HUGE...
YOU'RE ALREADY DONE FOR.
—UNTIL THE VERY END
THAT IS WHY I USED YOU AS BAIT TO CAPTURE THIS GIRL.

ZA-
SST
I KNOW YOU HEARD HER SCREAMS !!
STOP RESIST-ING AND SUR-RENDER AT ONCE !!
WOOM
CHAKK
EEAR ...
...TH...
KUH ...!!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HER IF YOU DON'T!!

DRAGON GEN-DOSO-SAN !!
ZAKK


AT THIS RATE, MY CARE-LESS-NESS...
...WILL COST GRAND-FATHER HIS LIFE ...!!
KREAK
I CAN'T MOVE ...
GUH ...!

MR-RGH ...
GTT

Vassal!!

BA-
GRAK
!!
THUMP
...!!
A NEW CHALLEN-GER?!
GUR-RH ...!!
GA-
HRM ?!
WOOSH

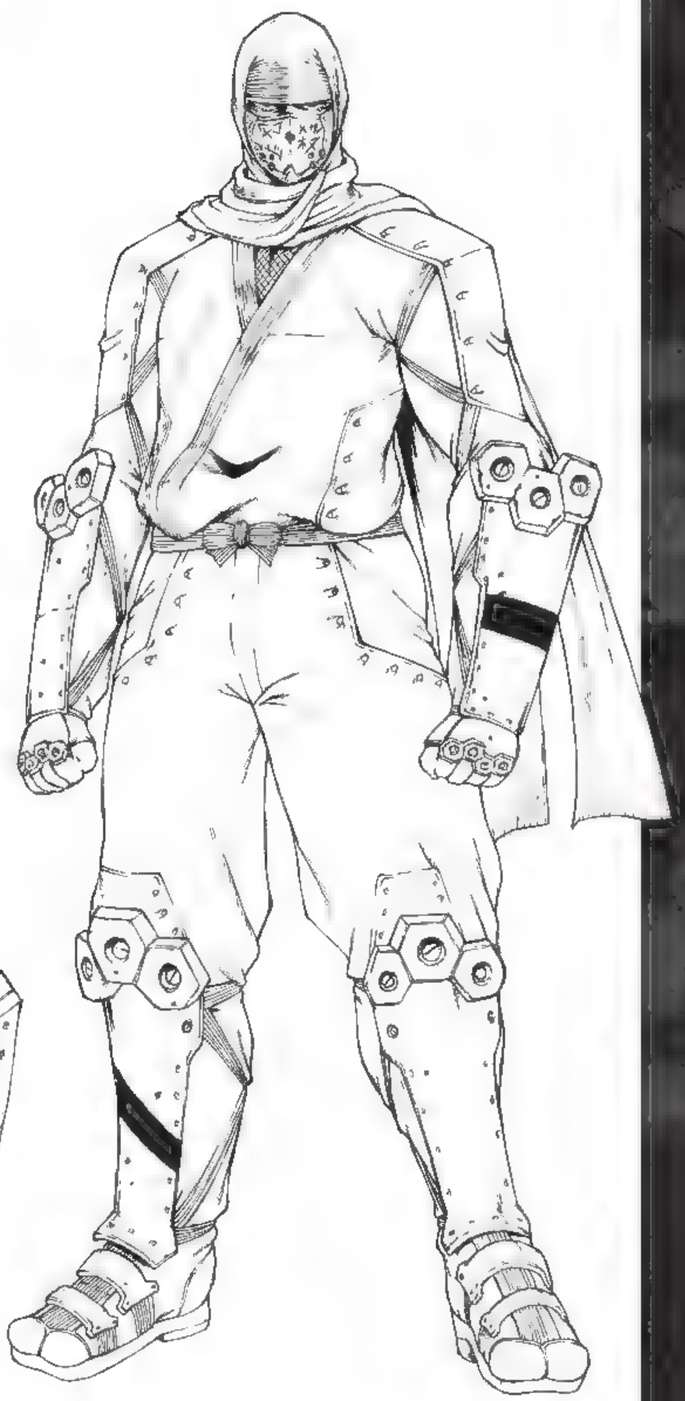
THIS ATMOSPHERE...
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT
...THAT WICKED YET LIVELY KARATE SHOUT
BANG!
AND ABOVE ALL...
...THAT CRIMSON COSTUME !!

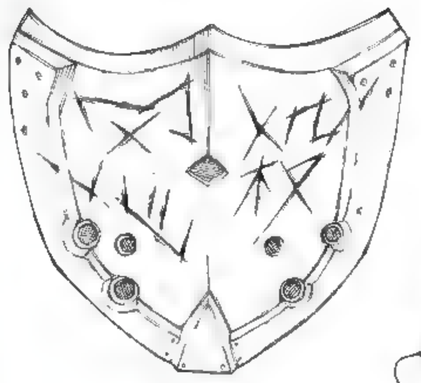
[SURPRISED DOJO PART 2] • END

TO BE CONTINUED

PROTOTYPE NINJA SLAYER

This is a ninja costume cobbled together by Fujikido himself, so I drew it with the feel of an Iron Man Mark 1-style rivet lined prototype Other than that, I toned down the sharp edges of the original version of Ninja Slayer The outfit is a mended judo outfit he picked up and dyed crimson, while the armored parts were refashioned as necessary from scrap lying around a factory Though the equipment can't even stand up to a battle with a *sanshita* ninja, it must've been important for Fujikido to recreate Ninja Slayer from scratch



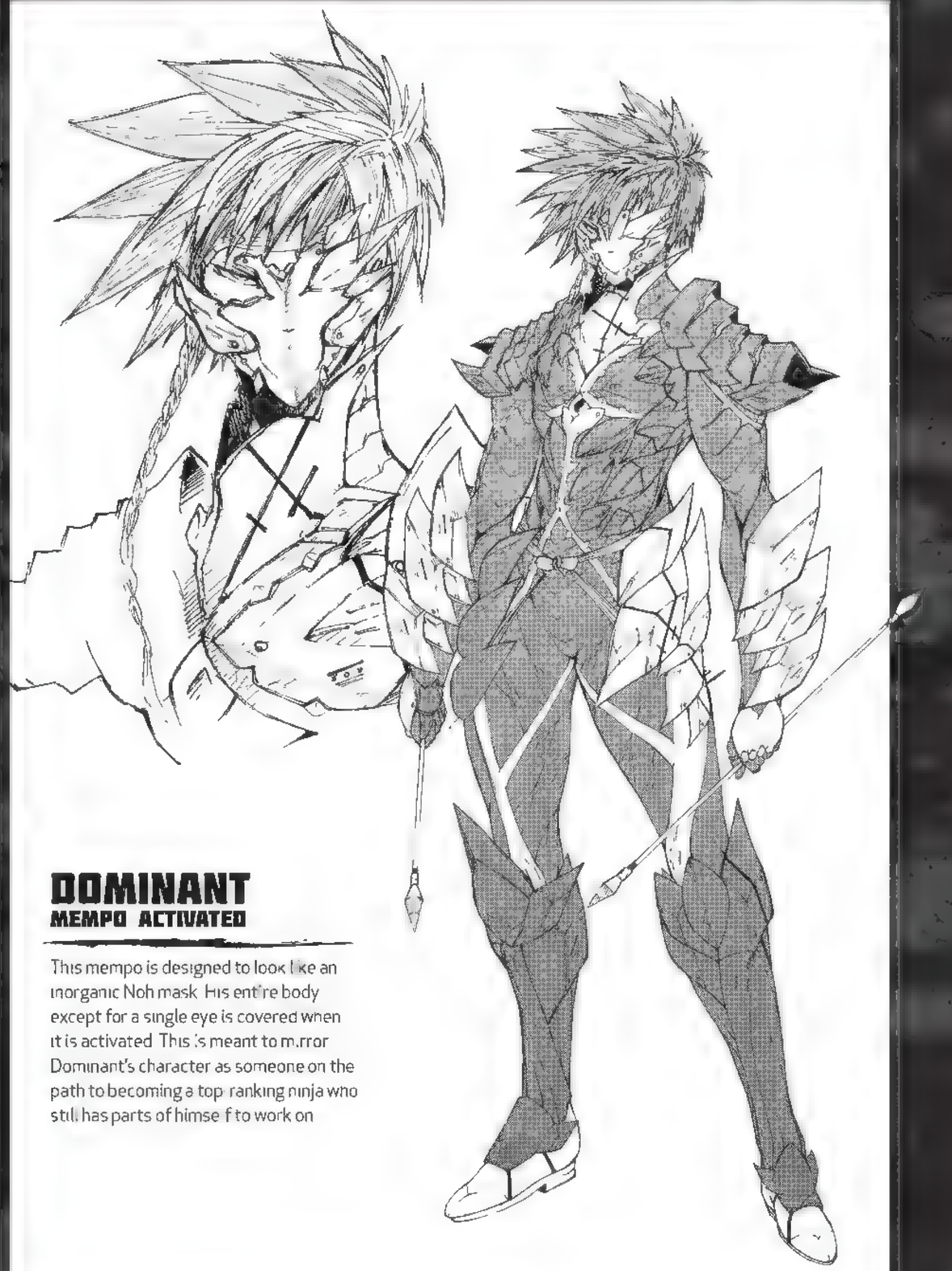


NINJA SLAYER KILLS!

ニンジャスレイヤー

SETTING DESIGN COLLECTION

COMMENTARY: KOUTAROU SEKINE



DOMINANT
MEMPO ACTIVATED

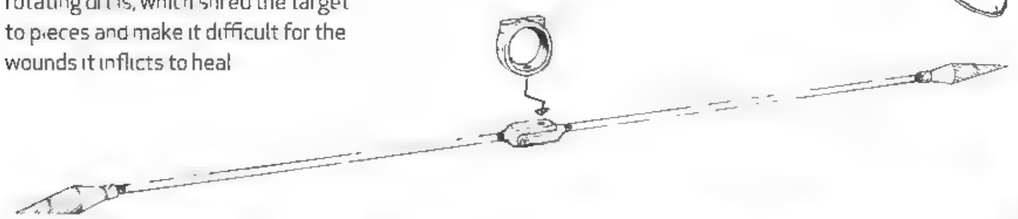
This mempo is designed to look like an inorganic Noh mask. His entire body except for a single eye is covered when it is activated. This is meant to mirror Dominant's character as someone on the path to becoming a top ranking ninja who still has parts of himself to work on.

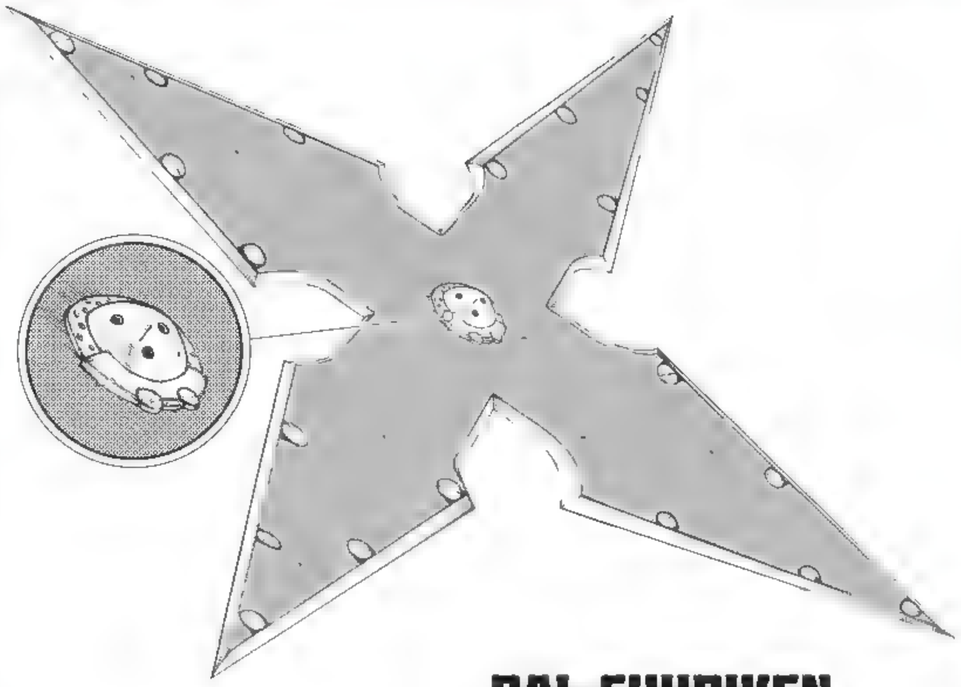
DOMINANT

Dominant is an up-and-coming, young Souka. ninja, so gave him a prideful, arrogant, and handsome face. Dominant's outfit uses special experimental artificial muscles that react to his unique "Enhancement Jitsu" by increasing his physical capabilities. His mempo (mask) activates as his jitsu increases in intensity. The Emeici he uses as a weapon are held in storage units found on the left side of his waist and on his right knee. The unit on his right knee is meant to be used as a concealed weapon in emergency situations (fired during extreme close-quarters combat, etc.).

EMEICI

An assassination weapon said to have been once favored by ninja in the world of Ninja Slayer. It is attached to a ring on his middle finger when used and can be enhanced and remotely controlled by imbuing it with the azure light of his Enhancement Jitsu. The tips are rapidly rotating drills, which shred the target to pieces and make it difficult for the wounds it inflicts to heal.



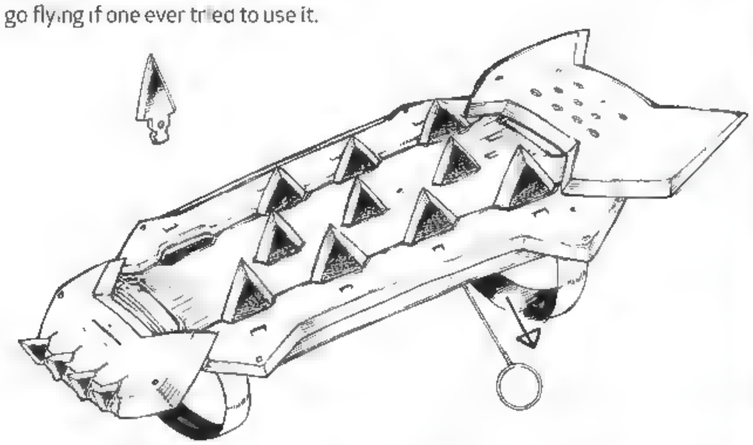


DAI-SHURIKEN

The central control unit is used to provide linear blade rotation acceleration for improved stability and killing power

SECRET ATTACK BRACER

Pulling the cord attached to this bracer causes gunpowder to ignite, shooting out a flurry of small blades. As it was created with a ninja's physical abilities in mind, the force of the explosion would cause a mere mortal's arm to go flying if one ever tried to use it.

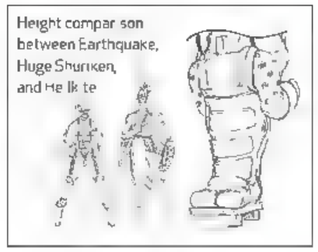


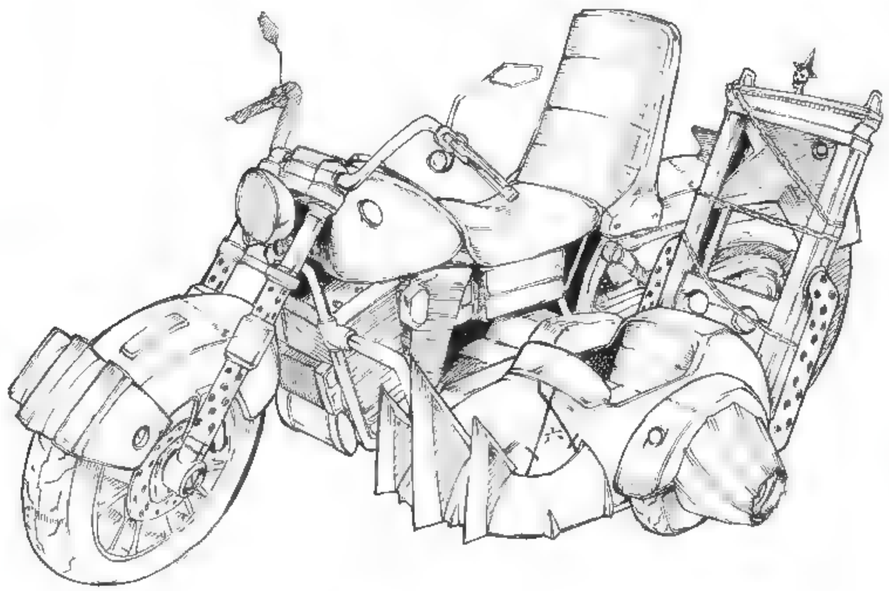
HUGE SHURIKEN

Huge Shuriken is meant to look like a scoundrel with a shuriken motif decorating every aspect of his design, including his tattoo, hair, spurs, and so on. This is also why his tempo makes it look like he's whistling. The shuriken-shaped eye patch over his dominant eye is, according to him, used for improved aim, but its actual efficacy is uncertain. It could just be a fashion statement. One can see on his exposed right arm an artificial muscle supporter used to assist his shuriken throwing, while on his left arm is his secret attack bracer.

EARTHQUAKE

I think the *Animation* caused me to draw h.m a little too big, but bigger is cooler, after all One of my base inspirations for Earth and Huge were Zhu Baj.e and Sha Wujing from *Journey to the West* On top of which, I added deta..s from things like heavy mach.nery, motorcyc.es, and so on The pipes across h.s body are used to effectively ventilate the karate heat generated when Earthquake gets ser.ous. Wh.le Huge has a tendency to choose his equipment based on how cool it feels or looks, Earth chooses only the most barebones of gear





EARTHQUAKE'S MOTORCYCLE

I drew th.s right after watching *Mad Max: Fury Road*, which had converted me to the church of the V8 So naturally, I drew this like a ch.ld plung parts onto a model car, with a thought process a.ong the lines of, "This bike won't kil a ninja, damn it! Let's put some brass knuck.es on the front! And a tr.ple b.ade! Now a shot from th.s thing will turn any regular n.nja into mincemeat! But what if .t gets attacked from the side?! Okay, then I'll put a spinny drilly thing on .t!" , saw something .ike it in that *Crush Gear* anime!! And as a final touch, I'll add a gu.llot ne to make it 100 million percent more deadly! Who cares how effective it is, . want a bike with looks that can slaughter any jelly-kneed, white-haired weakling that comes across it!" But now that I look at it with more sober eyes, I think it turned out looking k.nd of classy I guess in the end 'm just a simple resident of Saitama Prefecture, ne.ther Mad nor Max .

KITE WHEN ACTIVATED

GOGGLES

The multi-goggles Hellkite constantly wears are capable of folding out to the side. However, he generally does not activate his goggles in this way unless he is in Laomoto's presence

HELLKITE

While much is said of his abilities in the story, I drew Hellkite in *Kills* with a Tengu-like military look. Some of my favorite flourishes include his eyes, as you can't tell what he's thinking, as well as the feathers in his beret cap. His tall, single-toothed geta are worn so that he doesn't drag his kite on the ground

BANDIT

I went all-out with the bandit imagery for this character because of his name. While he has an unusually prominent face for a scout, I needed to make him look strong. He is the Six Gates' top assassin in *Kill*, after all. It is said that Bandit's leg strength is three times a normal human's, and the frames around his legs can further improve it by activating to be used like competitive running blades. He didn't get a chance to show this off, though...

GARGOYLE

If you're going to talk about gargoyles in Neo-Saitama, you're going to be talking about the shachihoko, which have the head of a tiger and the body of a carp. Gargoyle's shachihoko mempo also takes influence from the Balinese Rangda, and in fact his entire design is vaguely inspired by Balinese culture and Japanese water magic performers. He is able to release powerful currents of water from his fans, and he is able to use his unusually flexible body to become a true shachihoko gargoyle. ...or at least, that was probably the case while he was still alive.

GATEKEEPER

Gatekeeper has been changed in *Kills* to act almost as Laomoto's butler, staying at his side to help him with whatever is necessary. For that reason, he simply wears a black suit and his mempo. I've always believed that any image looks tighter when a silver-haired gentleman is in it, which is why I've had him appear in *Kills* more often than he does in the original. Anyone who has Gatekeeper-san standing behind them will feel a serious thrill— even a soft, flabby salaryman.

AFTERWORD

The online broadcast of *Ninja Slayer from Animation* has come and gone, and it seems that its television broadcast is fast approaching. How have all of you been these days? This is Koutarou Sekine. It's been a while since the last compiled volume—nearly a year ago. I'm very sorry about that…

Whenever anyone asks me about what I've been doing over the past year, outside of drawing manga, I can't really say that anything dramatic has happened. Fujikido, on the other hand, takes his first steps on his own toward becoming Ninja Slayer, while Yukano poetically describes Fujikido's karate shout as "wicked yet lively" even as she's being dangled in the air… That about sums it up.

Yukano-san seems to be turning into a bit of a karate sommelier. Yukano-san, I know you've been put in a bit of a rough spot having to hang in the air like that until volume 4 comes out, but you can do it! Well, see you next volume…

関根光太郎
Koutarou Sekine

TRANSLATION NOTES

Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing, page 213

Zhu Bajie (JP: Cho Hakkai) and Sha Wujing (JP: Sa Gojō) are both characters in the classic Chinese tale, *Journey to the West* (JP: *Saiyuki*). Both characters are helpers to the main character, the Buddhist monk Xuanzang (JP: Sanzōhōshi), as he makes a pilgrimage to the West to obtain and return with Buddhist sutras. Zhu Bajie is a half-pig/half-man who carries a large metal rake as a weapon and who, true to his swine-like appearance, is prone to laziness and gluttony. Sha Wujing is a large balding man with a halberd and a necklace made of skulls. Due to his appearance and association with water as a river monster, Sha Wujing is sometimes reinterpreted as a Japanese water imp, or Kappa.

Crush Gear, page 213

Crush Gear (full name: *Gekitō! Crush Gear Turbo*) is one of many toy-centric anime and manga series aimed at young boys. The series is about people who compete with modded toy vehicles by throwing the vehicles in a large ring to fight each other. The anime series ran from 2001-2003 and also resulted in an animated film and second TV series called *Crush Gear Nitro*.

Shachihoko, page 216

Shachihoko are half-fish, half-tiger creatures. Since they are believed to be able to produce great streams of water from their mouths, statues of shachihoko used to be placed on buildings in Japan as a charm against fire. The most famous shachihoko in Japan are the pair of golden ones on Nagoya Castle.

Rangda, page 216

According to Balinese legend, Rangda is the demon queen of the leyaks, fearsome creatures that consist of only a flying head with entrails dangling from its bottom. In Bali, she is seen as the embodiment of evil and is said to lead an army of witches against Barong, who represents good in Balinese mythology. When represented in costume for dances and other events, a mask with fangs, goggle eyes, and a long tongue is combined with a wig of almost body-length, blond hair and striped skin colored red, black, and white.

Japanese water magic, page 216

Japanese water magic (JP: *mizugei*) is an old style of entertainment that has been performed since the Edo period. A typical act consists of the performer manipulating water on a stage by stopping and starting the flow of a stream and making the water "dance" at the flick of the performers fan.

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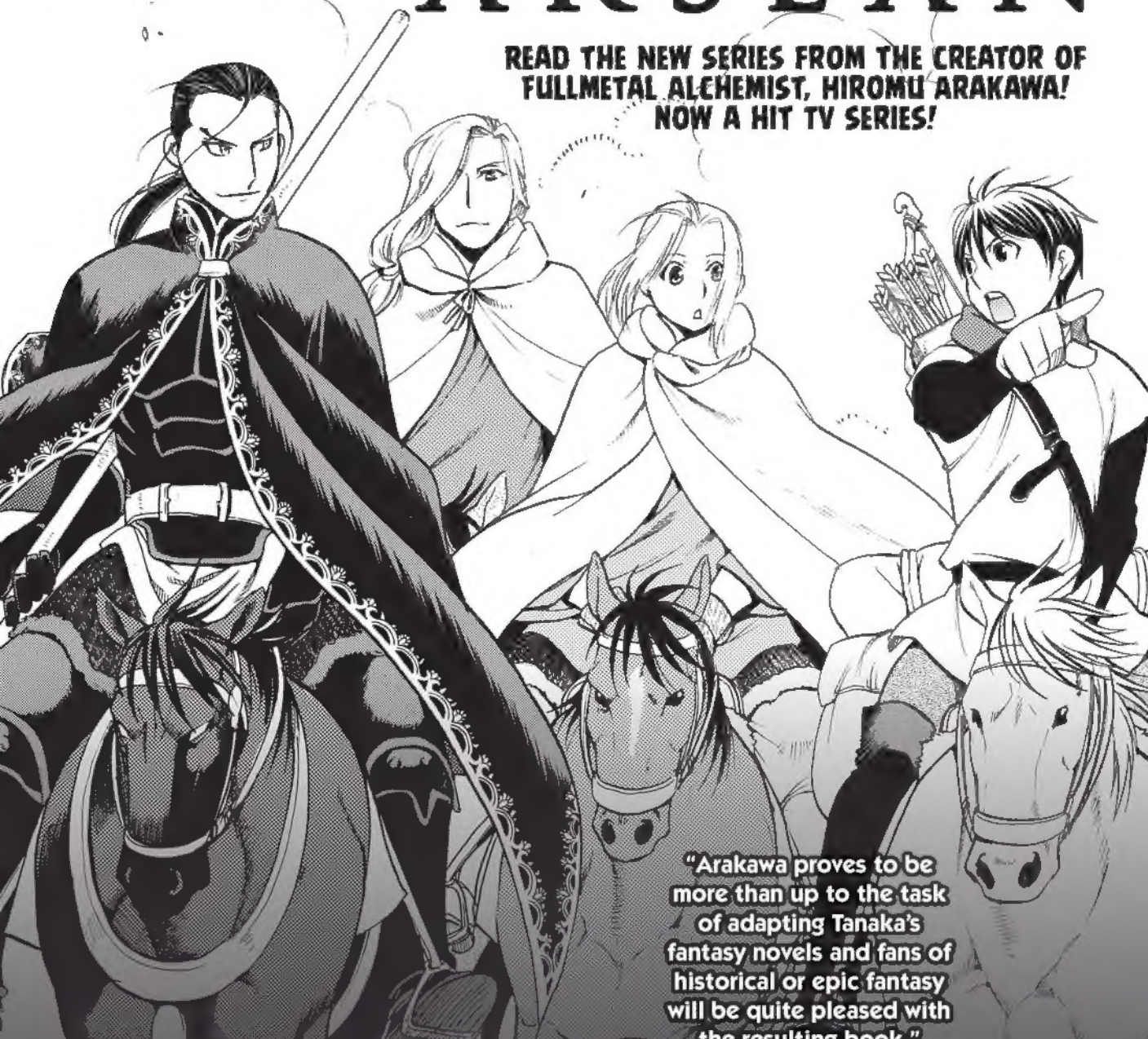

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THEN A BLINDING LIGHT FILLS THE SKY, AND THE OLD MAN IS KILLED... ONLY TO WAKE UP LATER IN A BODY HE ALMOST RECOGNIZES AS HIS OWN. CAN IT BE THAT ICHIRO INUYASHIKI IS NO LONGER HUMAN?

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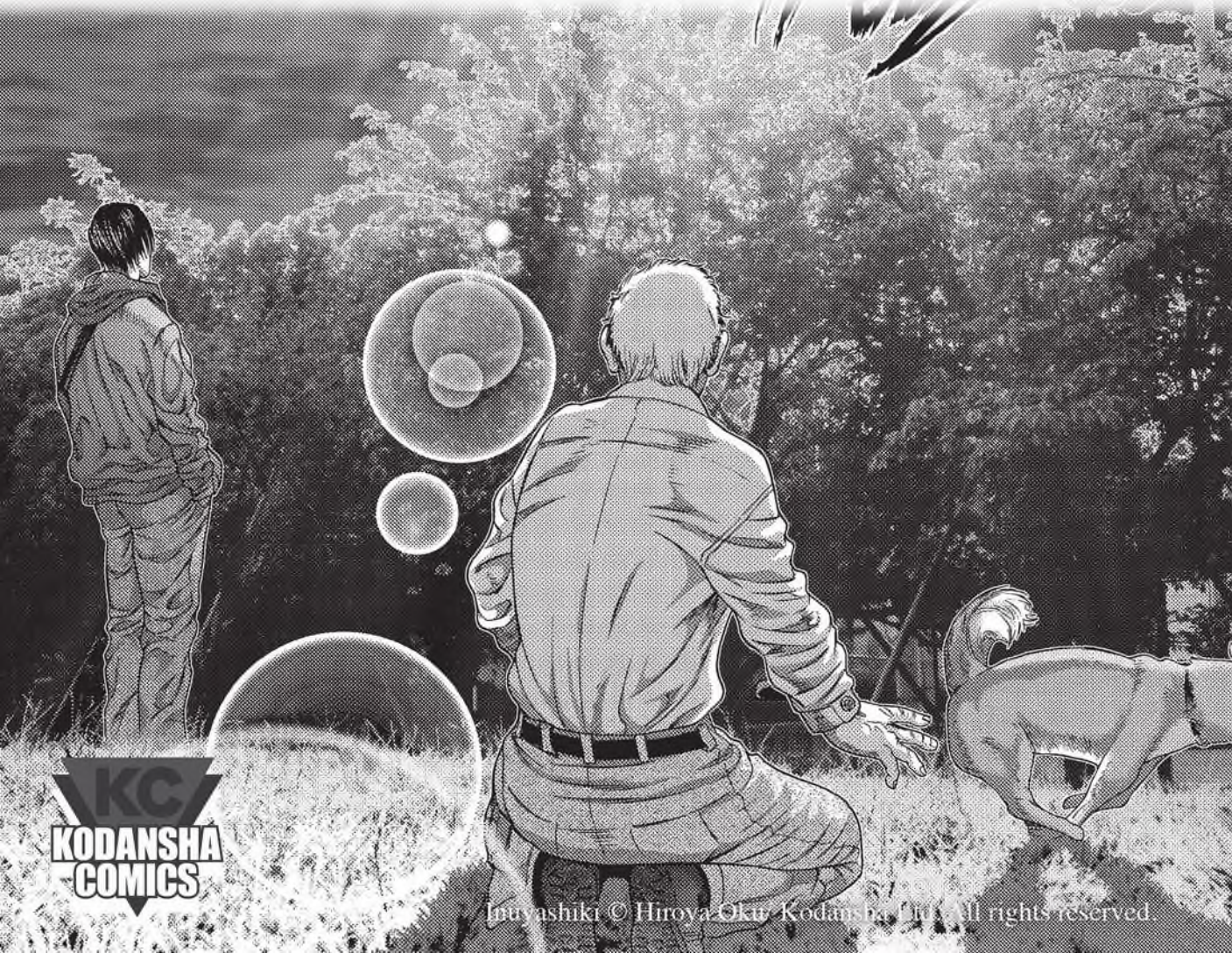

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Ninja Slayer Kills 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

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ISBN: 9781682333891

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Localization: Ko Ransom
Lettering: Evan Hayden
Calligraphy for Kotodama: Megumi Fitzpatrick
Editing and additional material: Ajani Oloye
Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman